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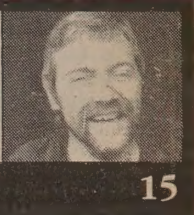


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Minister refuses action on 6 million disabled

The Government last month rejected calls for swift action following the publication of a report which suggests there are 6 million disabled people in Britain – twice the number previously estimated.

The report from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, the first of 6 which will give a comprehensive picture of life for disabled people in Britain, has prompted renewed demands from disability organisations that the Government should reconsider disability benefits and services in the light of its findings.

But Nicholas Scott, Minister for the Disabled, refused to commit the Government to any action. He said it was "more important we get it right than that we rush at fences."

A working party will consider the results of the survey next year, once the other 5 reports are published. It will not report until 1990 at the earliest.

The last national survey of disability, almost 20 years ago, suggested there were about 3 million disabled people. The huge rise is partly because the "threshold" for being classed as disabled, agreed with the Department of Health, is lower in this survey.

Mr Scott said he was not surprised by the numbers, especially as almost 70 per cent of the total were over 60 "many of whom consider the relatively minor limitations of hearing, vision or movement as normal for their age."

The majority had more than

one type of disability. The most common forms were mobility difficulties, followed by hearing and personal care problems.

The survey team separated disabled people into 10 categories of severity from 1, the least disabled, to 10. More than 2 million of the total are in the two lowest categories.

But the Disability Alliance, representing over 100 disability organisations, says even those in category 1 would be regarded as having a major impairment by most people. Examples are a man who has difficulty hearing a voice in a quiet room, and a man who cannot recognise a friend across the road and has difficulty reading a newspaper.

"We are appalled that the Minister is suggesting that pensioners with disabilities should not be included in the total," said Ian McMaster of the Alliance.

Alf Morris, shadow spokesman on disability, said: "Faced with the data now provided by the OPCS, the Government has no excuse for refusing to make more resources available."

Jack Ashley MP, chairman of the All-Party Disablement Group, has called for an early Parliamentary debate.

The OPCS surveys were commissioned by the DHSS. The next report, dealing with the financial circumstances of disabled people, is due this month.

The Prevalence of Disability Among Adults, OPCS Surveys of Disability in Great Britain, Report 1, HMSO, £10.70

Quality of life is "a lottery"

A 2-year national study of housing and support services for people with severe physical disabilities has shown that chance, not need, determines the amount and kind of help they receive.

Living Options Lottery, initiated by The Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, draws on evidence from more than 200 severely disabled people in nearly 50 health and local authorities.

"Support services are complicated, piecemeal, inflexible, insecure, and idiosyncratic, and often limit users' lives or result in unnecessary institutionalisation," the study says.

Appropriately designed and equipped housing is also in short supply.

The study looks at examples of good practices and stresses that where care services tailored to a person's needs exist, even the most severely physically dis-

abled person can take responsibility for his own life and be integrated into the community.

"The achievement of quality services demands urgent action by policy makers, funders and managers," says the study.

It echoes the Griffiths report in calling on policy makers to include disabled people, as consumers, in planning and managing the services they use.

Massive additional funding is not always the vital ingredient but central government must guarantee fair, secure and consistent funding regardless of cause or type of disability, to create the framework in which good practice can flourish, concludes the report.

Living Options Lottery: Housing and Support Services for People with Severe Physical Disabilities 1986/88, by Barrie Fiedler. Available from 8 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BA, £6.



Buy one, give one free. David Blunkett MP and his guide dog, Offa, at the launch of a scheme in which blind people will get a free smoke detector. For each First Alarm detector bought at a Great Mills DIY store, until 13 November, another will be donated to the RNIB.

★ New plans for DN, see page 20 ★

Right to buy adapted houses

The right to buy council houses is likely to be extended to include some disabled tenants in the near future, with the prospect of all disabled council tenants eventually being able to buy their homes if they want to.

Lord Caithness, the Housing Minister, announced last month that the Government is putting forward an amendment to the Housing Bill, currently going through Parliament, to allow tenants to buy houses which have been adapted because someone has become disabled.

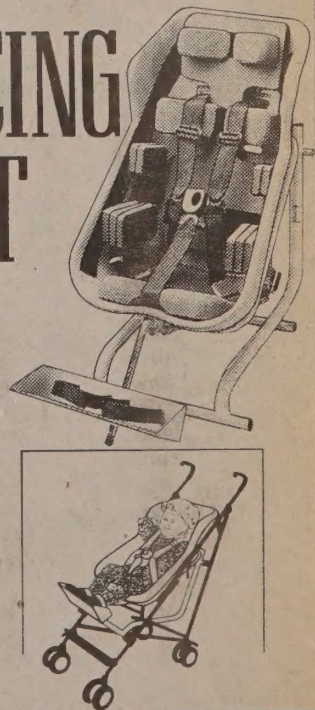
He said it is unlikely that changes allowing those in purpose-built houses to buy them could be included in the new housing bill before it finishes its passage through Parliament.

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

Quantum foot

I recently attended my nearest LFC for urgent repair work to my artificial limb and whilst there enquired about the new Quantum foot (DN, August).

I was, however, completely amazed when I was told that unfortunately it is only supplied to men. To say that I was furious would be an understatement.

To have a disability is hard enough to bear, but for a woman it is not only disability we have to cope with but also the disadvantage of not really being accepted as a woman, and this is constantly reinforced by the media's portrayal of women generally.

When the accent is still put not on how bright a woman is but on how attractive she is, and where beauty is the only criteria awarded to her by this male-oriented society, it is for me – and sadly, I guess, for many other women – extremely hard to ignore.

I do feel that if it is a question of a temporary shortage of supplies of this Quantum foot, then surely it should be distributed equally to both men and women in what is called an equal opportunities society.

Anne Beck

Hemel Hempstead, Herts

J E Hanger and Co assures us that the woman's Quantum foot is now available. They developed the man's foot first! – Editor.

While certainly different in some respects from the Quantum foot, the Jaipur foot from India also looks like the real thing and has been around for many years. People needing artificial feet in India (those lucky enough to visit the centre at Jaipur) have been able to "wear sandals or go barefoot, walk more easily on slopes and uneven ground, and

play sports" for a very long time.

It is interesting when we see "high-tech" finally catching up with "low-tech" and providing the customer with an attractive as well as functional foot.

The Jaipur foot lacks the two sprung plates and no doubt there are other differences from the Quantum foot, but it works very well. It is one example of the ingenious ideas designed by people in developing countries for disabled people out of locally available materials.

Ann Darnbrough

Disability Unit

The Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG)
London SE1 9SG

London transport campaign

We all know that Dial-a-Rides in London cannot meet the demand for transport from disabled people. They have to refuse many rides a week through lack of resources and that doesn't take into account the need for cross-town travel which most Dial-a-Rides cannot do.

A group of us have got together to form a new campaign group for accessible mainstream public transport. We aim to prove to planners that it is possible and desirable to have a fully accessible public transport system.

The Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) has a radical approach. Our task is challenging and exciting. If you wish to be involved, please contact me at the address below and I will send details of our next meeting on 28 November.

Alan Desborough

11a Hargrave Park
Upper Holloway
London N19 5JP



To get cooking, Lin Berwick just turns a handle on the Ropox Unit 42 and it comes down to wheelchair level. Cupboards and oven (right) are also at wheelchair height.

Dream kitchen

Many of you will have read the saga of my kitchen.

Trying to find a family-sized oven with side opening door was no easy task, but Gaggenau's head office put me in touch with a distributor, Derek Figgins of Home Affair Kitchen Studio Ltd, who was most helpful, opening his premises after trading hours so that I could look at products without being hurried.

The final outcome was that Home Affair supplied the entire kitchen.

All Gaggenau products have easy-to-operate controls, so I bought an oven, a microwave and a split ceramic hob with two conventional elements at the back and two halogens at the front. The great advantage is that halogens cool down rapidly.

Also, this unit has controls on the front of it – I can get my wheelchair underneath and slide pans from hob to either work surface.

Sadly, Gaggenau equipment does not have raised dots or indentations on their controls, but they are simple to adapt.

The most useful feature of the kitchen is the Ropox Unit 42, available from Llewelyn Health Care Services in Liverpool. Cupboards and base units can be raised or lowered by turning a handle – ideal for the backs of able-bodied helpers.

The planning and the wait have been well worth it. Now we have to pay the bill (£9,600 less a grant from social services) and I have to become a good cook!

Lin Berwick

Hornchurch, Essex

Feet or wheels?

I think a compromise can be found between the views of Emma McDowell and Andrew Carman (DN, September).

As someone who has been paralysed below the waist since birth (43 years), I can well remember being forced to use calipers and crutches throughout my childhood. I was sometimes so exhausted by the end of a day that I cried. My physiotherapist later explained that it had been calculated that the energy I used to walk 100 yards was equivalent to a fit person playing a full game of squash.

I am glad that I learnt these skills, as they still serve me well today in certain circumstances. But as I became more independent in my teens, I learnt that some tasks are far easier to do from a wheelchair – such as carrying shopping, covering greater distances or participating in sport.

I see my chair as just another aid to mobility, to be used as appropriate, and as it gives me greater freedom I have no negative feelings about using it.

If anyone feels that I am "giving up" or not conforming to society's illusion of normality by dashing around Tesco in my wheelchair, then that really is their problem, not mine.

We should use whichever method we feel most appropriate, comfortable and safe with and not have to conform to how others wish us to be.

Linda Durnall

Audley
Stoke-on-Trent

(sic)

DN's diary column
by Julian Marshall

Nudex

So last month's Naidex has come and gone – the biggest and best yet. Old age and disability are obviously big business, so why do manufacturers feel so squeamish about using their customers in publicity photos? There was stand after stand of glossy photos of the product, but very few real users pictured. The Takes the Biscuit Award must go to South Coast Hydro Baths Ltd, who had the poor taste to drape an able-bodied, swimsuited model, barely into her 20's, all over their stand.

Active response

Seeing a DHSS ad in Radar's Contact magazine publicising booklets that explain what benefits disabled people can claim, we wondered if they would like to place a similar ad with us. Well no, actually, the ad was placed purely for "charity support", said a DHSS spokesman. They "knew the ad would not draw any response", and furthermore, they did not want to actively encourage one, so no, they wouldn't place it with us. Being unwilling to undermine this cost-cutting policy, we would like to ask people not to ask for booklets FB.28 Sick or Disabled? or HB.6 Equipment and Services for Disabled People from the DHSS Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middx HA7 1AY, or you may be in grave danger of being paid the money you are entitled to, heaven forbid.

Political joke

Speaking at the SLD's conference, the SDP President, John Cartwright, reminded delegates of the need for the centre parties to learn by the mistakes of the Labour Party and stop bickering in public. "Perhaps my educational friends are right and SLD does stand for Severe Learning Difficulties," he quipped. Could these friends be guilty of membership of the Substantial Disability-Prejudice party?

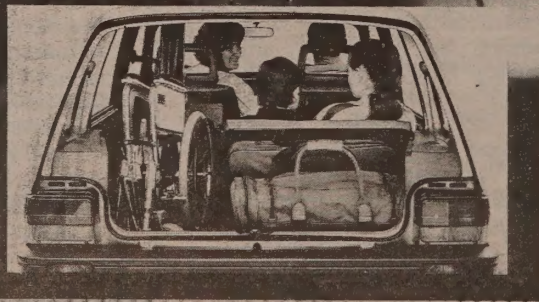
Three steps back...

Good news from the US: in August, the Fair Housing Act was sent to President Reagan to sign into law. The Act provides protection against discrimination in housing for disabled people. The bad news is that some bright spark introduced an amendment that requires disabled tenants to return a dwelling to its original inaccessible condition on leaving if they've made any modifications.

Crack-pot decision

California: an Oakland judge decreed that a 67-year-old man, paralyzed in the crossfire of a crack (cocaine) gang shoot-out, could not testify in the gang's trial. Judge David Lee said he felt the injured man's appearance would jeopardize the defendants' right to a fair trial. Meanwhile, American doctors have called for the legalisation of marijuana for medical uses. Describing it as "one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man", they say it is useful in the treatment of cancer and multiple sclerosis.

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Remploy surplus

Remploy, the company which employs 11,000 people, 9,000 of them disabled, had a surplus of £1.8m on last year's trading.

The surplus was calculated on sales against costs and does not take into account either disabled people's wages, nearly £56m, nor the £50m subsidy Remploy received from the Government.

However, chief executive Tony Withey was pleased to have "broken through the barrier". He said the company's record turnover of £91m meant it had been able to meet all its expenses without Government help and contribute £7m towards the wages bill.

Workers would get a performance bonus of £1.5m.

"We aim to grow to achieve our objectives and share the benefits with those who work so hard to make it possible", said chairman Ivor Cohen.

Disabled workers at Remploy currently get £90 a week, which with bonuses can reach £108.

"Remploy has a terrible legacy to live down", says Andrew Robertson, who has worked there for 24 years. "It is much better. It could be even better."

Community care

continued from page 1
monitored and uncontrolled."

"Until the Government provides clear directives on the structuring and organisation of community care, resources are being wasted and individuals are suffering," he said.

The Audit Commission supports Community Care Now. Its controller, Howard Davies, said conflicting policies cause a bias towards residential care.

Holiday humiliation for couple

A disabled couple whose hopes of a dream holiday were shattered before it even began are planning to sue the travel company for compensation.

John and Mary Fletcher booked a 2-week touring holiday to Yugoslavia with Smith Shearings of Wigan. But when they turned up in Coventry on 25 September to catch the continental coach they claim they were "publicly humiliated" by the driver, who sent them home again.

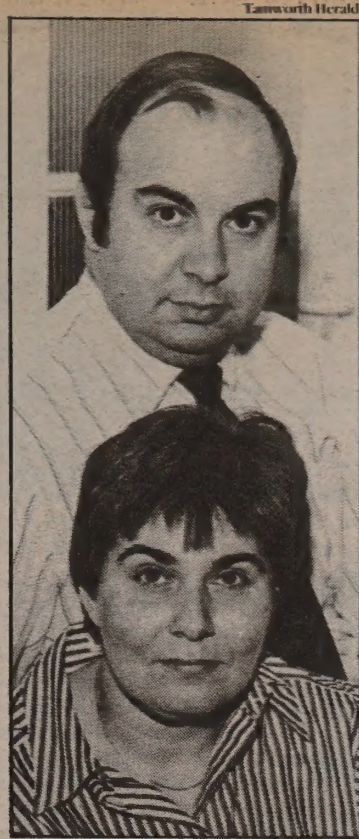
Both the Fletchers have cerebral palsy. When they booked their holiday through Bowens Travel in Tamworth, 6 weeks in advance, they gave full details of their disabilities on the booking form. They explained that they can both walk but need wheelchairs for long distances, and need help carrying cases. Bowens also telexed the hotels on the route to ensure there would be no problems.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy but we've lived with our disabilities for 43 years and know our capabilities," said Mr Fletcher.

"The driver just looked at us and said he didn't feel we could cope. He put forward several obstacles. He even argued that only 20 minutes were allowed for toilet stops on the way! All this was in front of a coach full of people. It was very humiliating."

A car was ordered to take the Fletchers home and the next day they phoned Smith Shearings to complain.

Paul Sawbridge, managing director of Smith Shearings, said



John and Mary Fletcher

that because it was a late booking the company did not receive the booking form with the disability details in time.

He said the driver did not refuse to let them board, but "strongly advised them not to go".

The company has offered to refund the holiday and pay £100 each in compensation.

But the Fletchers do not feel this is enough and are suing.

"No amount of money will compensate for the degradation we suffered, having to stand and argue about our disabilities in front of a coach load of people," said Mr Fletcher.

Society slims top management to fund the "front line"

The Spastics Society is breaking new ground in the voluntary sector by appointing a Head of Inspection and Quality Control to its top management team.

The job involves assessing the quality of service the Society gives cp people and trying to ensure that their needs are met as fully as possible.

"I'm a believer in giving the consumer more say," says chief executive Ken Young. "We have a moral and professional responsibility to give the best possible service and by creating standards, testing them and changing them we can better meet the needs of the customers. The Society must be its own sternest critic if it is to have credibility in the eyes of the user."

The top management team is being halved, saving money at the centre so that more can be directed to front line services.

"We are essentially a decentralised organisation trying to be centralised," says Ken Young.

"We should put our energies where they should be, with regional and local activities."

With this in mind, he is combining the Regions, Social Services and Education divisions under one Director of Operations, who will have overall responsibility for the new approach.

Besides directors of Finance and Support Services and Marketing, there will be a Director of Research and Development, responsible for forward planning and developing joint fund-raising projects with the public and private sectors.

Ken Young hopes the new team, to be in post by January, will provide a very different style of management involving staff and consumers more closely, prove more cost effective and adaptable to changing needs, and will promote the policy of The Spastics Society better, making it the leading organisation in the voluntary sector.

New test for consumer goods

A pilot project to assess how easily household equipment can be used by disabled people could take the hit-and-miss out of buying consumer durables.

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs is looking at a range of washing machines to see if product assessment from a disabled person's point of view can be incorporated into the normal testing programme of consumer magazine *Which?*

RICA has commissioned the Handicapped Person's Research Unit in Newcastle to use disabled volunteers to give the

washing machines a convenience rating.

Using 4 categories of disabled volunteers (visually impaired, mobility impaired, limited manual dexterity and general frailty), the unit hopes to produce a "convenience rating" for each machine.

The results should be published in the January edition of *Which?*

If all goes well, RICA will extend the study to other consumer goods such as microwaves, cookers, fridges and vacuum cleaners.

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Camden's "mini OPCS" survey

In the first survey of its kind by a local authority, Camden Council has found that there is a widespread need for improvements in housing and social services for people with disabilities in the borough.

The findings of the "mini OPCS" are important for both central and local government, claims Richard Sumray, chair of social services.

"The reports come at an interesting time, given that the OPCS stage 1 report is out too. It will provide a lot of ammunition for disability groups," he said.

Camden's own stage 1 report, which showed that 1 in 3 households in Camden have someone with a disability or long-term illness, was published earlier this year.

Part 2 of the survey, based on interviews with 19,000 disabled people, found that the quality of social services is seen as good, but there is not enough of it; housing is not up to scratch and the role of carers is critical.

The survey also found a strong desire for more alarms, kitchen and bathroom adaptations, window cleaning and other services for disabled people.

Camden Survey of People with Disabilities and Long Term Health Problems, Camden Town Hall, Euston Rd, London, NW1 2RU. Tel: 01-278 4444.



Claire Hicks receives her award from Jim Ashley of the Patient's Aid Association, which put up the prize money, and Edwina Currie.

Award for cataract fighter

A Sussex woman who pioneered a scheme to cut costs and waiting lists for cataract operations has won the Radio 4 *In Touch* programme's 7th David Scott Blackhall Memorial Award.

Claire Hicks set up Operation Cataract, which puts up post-operative cataract surgery patients in out-of-season hotels instead of hospital beds, saving up to £800 per operation, after she found lack of bed-space and money were the major causes of delay of cataract removal operations. 100 patients in the Worthing area benefitted from the scheme last year.

"We now have the possibility of creating a 'cataract-free zone' in the Wessex Regional Health Authority," said Mrs Hicks.

Hotel costs were split between Worthing District Health

Authority and the Impact Foundation, a medical charity which aims to reduce avoidable disability, of which Mrs Hicks is director. NHS nurses and volunteers provided care.

Canterbury and Thanet have now announced similar schemes, and in Worthing, hip replacement post-operative care is being added.

Mrs Hicks denied that the scheme may be undermining the principle of NHS care, calling it "an intelligent experiment in partnership, and in the interests of the patients."

The £600 award, sponsored by the Patients Aid Association and presented by Junior Health Minister Edwina Currie at the BBC Radio Show, Earls Court, will be used to fund 2 more cataract operations.

Women with disabilities get together

Claire Glasman of Winvisible reports

Women with and without disabilities from 11 countries, including Finland, Greece and Japan, met to compare their lives and experiences at a 4-day conference in Uddel, Holland, at the end of September.

This first International Congress for Young Women with Disabilities was organised by the mixed collective, Women and Disability.

The 16 women with disabilities who attended were from a wide range of situations: living in institutions, with family or independently; going to day centres, studying or in waged jobs.

The level of technology available to people with disabilities in Holland was a revelation, particularly to women from Malta and Portugal. In fact, how much financial independence we did or didn't have was a decisive factor in every discussion.

Workshops covered work and education, genetic engineering, and how able-bodied women can support those with disabilities in greater independence.

Sadly, the issue of race and disability was omitted from the programme, and not enough time was put aside for every country represented to sum up their general situation.

The final decision, taken by the organisers, to constitute an international organisation and find funding for another conference seemed hasty, given there had been only a brief and tentative discussion about its aims and what it would do.

All of us, however, appreciated the opportunity to get together with dynamic women from other countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wales survey on people with cp

A one-year study to find out the number of people with cerebral palsy in Wales has been launched by The Spastics Society in Wales and the Institute of Health Care Studies at University College, Swansea.

As well as identifying numbers, people with cp will be interviewed in detail to find out what services they consider a priority.

Anyone wanting to present information or take part should contact Orian McGann, c/o The Spastics Society, 382-384 Newport Road, Cardiff CF3 7UA.

Interpreters' forum

Sign Language interpreters from EEC countries have formed a forum which met for the first time last month to discuss setting minimum standards of training, assessment and working conditions.

This follows the European Parliament's resolution in June to officially recognise all EEC Sign Languages. It also called on member states to establish training programmes and employ full-time interpreters.

Deaf-blind report

A new report by 4 national voluntary organisations calls on councils to look at how they can develop services for Britain's 11,000 deaf-blind people.

Breaking Through, by the Deaf-Blind Services Liaison Group (DBSLG), has been presented to Nicholas Scott, Minister for the Disabled.

It asks councils to set up forums including at least one deaf-blind person, to draw up a strategy for services.

The DBSLG consists of the RNIB, SHAPE, RNID and the National Deaf-Blind Helpers League. *Breaking Through* is available from these charities.

Hearing loss rises

Growing numbers of young people are losing their hearing because they live or work in a noisy environment, warned the British Association of the Hard of Hearing last month.

Launching a campaign to reduce damage to hearing from noise, BAHOH said that up to a third of all adults over 20 in the UK had some form of hearing impairment.

The £25,000 campaign, which aims to encourage individuals to take care of their own hearing, is sponsored by British Telecom. It will also target unions, employers, schools and community organisations.

Charity ads on TV

Charities will be allowed to advertise on television for the first time, under proposed new rules published by the Independent Broadcasting Association last month.

The new liberal rules will go to the Home Office for consideration early next year.

The current ban on charities appealing for money on television has existed for 33 years.

Free airtime for charities to publicise their aims and activities should continue, says the IBA.

Shake-up for motorway services

Time is up for motorway service stations failing to provide facilities for disabled people.

Following a survey by the Automobile Association last October, which found the facilities for disabled people at many service areas inadequate, the Government has promised swift action. Franchise holders were given until 1 October to make improvements or prove that work was underway.

Failure to meet the deadline

meant removal of the wheelchair symbol from the sign on the motorway approach.

"I am delighted the Department of Transport's response has been so positive," said Roy Thompson, the AA's disability consultant.

Results of the survey were published in the AA's travel guide for disabled motorists. Help at petrol pumps and access to telephones were the main causes for concern.

Dressing aid wins REMAP prize

A dressing aid for people with limited arm movement won the Hertfordshire North group first prize in the 1988 REMAP (Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panels) award for innovative equipment for disabled people.

Professor Heinz Wolff presented the prize to designer Geoff Ayton of the group at Alexandra Palace during the Naidex exhibition last month.

Other awards went to panels who had designed a walking/support for disabled bowls players; a device to help a blind woman handle both a pram and her guide dog and an aid to bow-aiming for blind archers.

In the 10 years since the awards began, the 90 REMAP panels have designed and made more than 20,000 aids.

Mr Ayton said manufacturing companies had already shown interest.

The aid was designed for a woman with arthritis, but it can be used by anyone with arm-mobility problems on any front-fastening tops.

REMAP is a RADAR organisation made up of volunteer



Inventor Geoff Ayton tries out his dressing aid.

groups who give advice and make equipment to meet the needs of disabled people when no commercial aid exists.

Try your hand

Does He Take Sugar? (BBC Radio 4) is offering a prize to any disabled person, carer or professional who can design a new, simple aid to make life easier for a disabled person. The winning design will be made by a REMAP panel and, hopefully, marketed. Entry forms from *Does He Take Sugar?* Room 7074, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA, tel: 01-927 4909. Closing date: 21 November.

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JONATHAN IS MISSING OUT ON HIS SAVINGS.



IS IT HAPPENING TO YOU?

Jonathan was badly injured in a car accident when he was 19. It left him severely disabled. He's now confined to a wheelchair, and receives a disablement allowance of £24.75 a week and a mobility allowance of £23.05 a week. But he's missing out on his savings.

Following his accident, he was given £10,000 compensation and immediately put it into his bank account. But the local bank - like the local building society - has to take tax off his interest and he can't claim it back. The interest he earns is well below his Personal Allowance of £2,605 for this tax year and none of his benefits are taxable. So he's paying tax on his interest when he doesn't need to.

What Jonathan could do now is transfer his savings into National Savings Income Bonds, where he'd get his full interest paid as a regular monthly income *without* having tax taken off before he gets it.

Jonathan is just one of the many non-taxpayers who could benefit from the fact that with the National Savings Investment Account, Deposit Bonds or Income Bonds, you get *all* the interest, with nothing taken off for tax. (You only pay tax if you are a taxpayer.)

So if you think you're paying tax when you don't



have to, or know a friend or relative who might be, you should read our easy-to-understand booklet "A Guide to Savings for Non-Taxpayers".

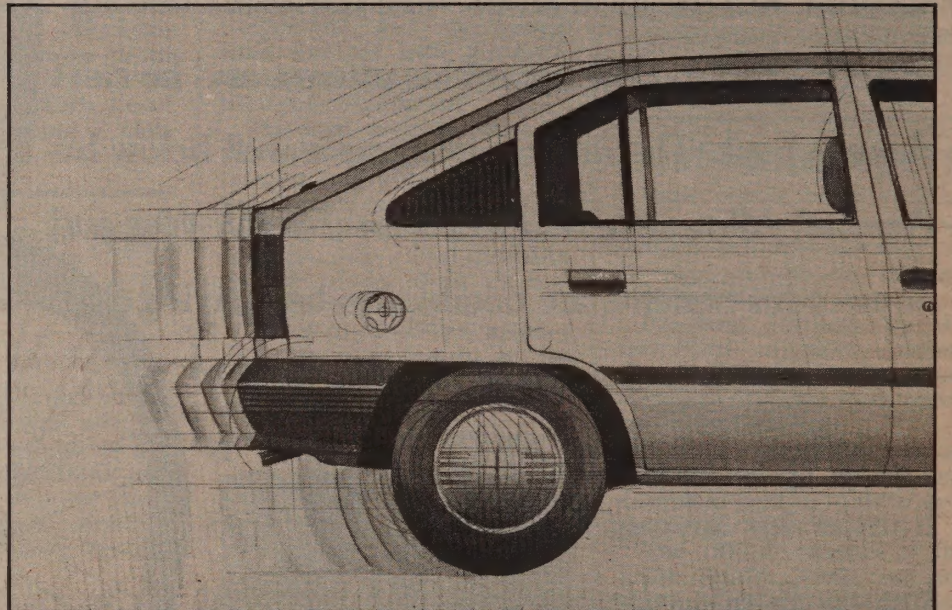
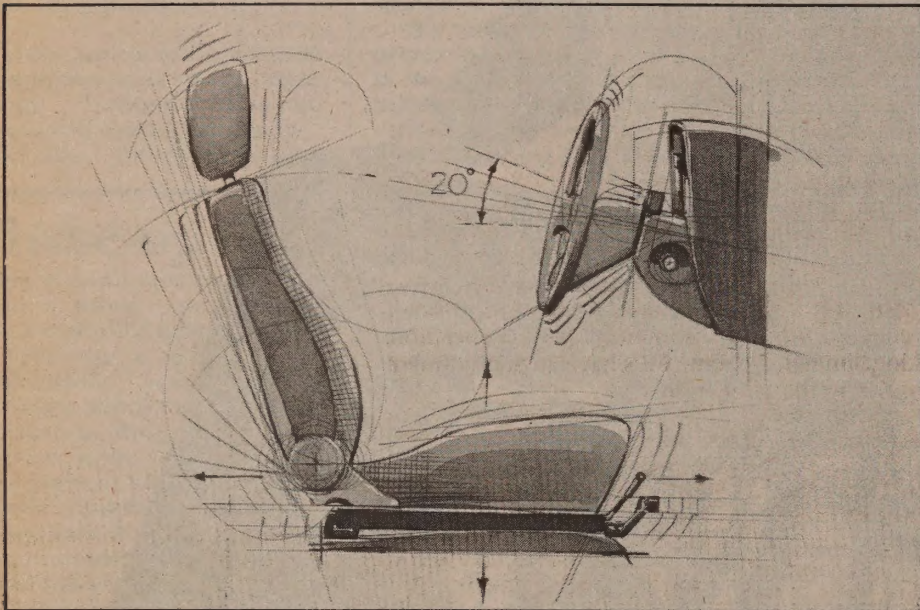
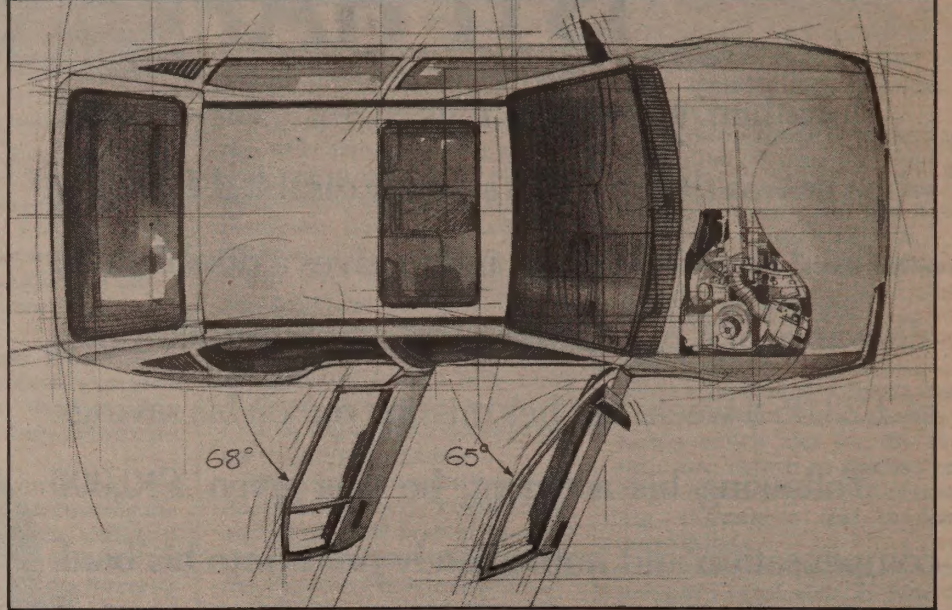
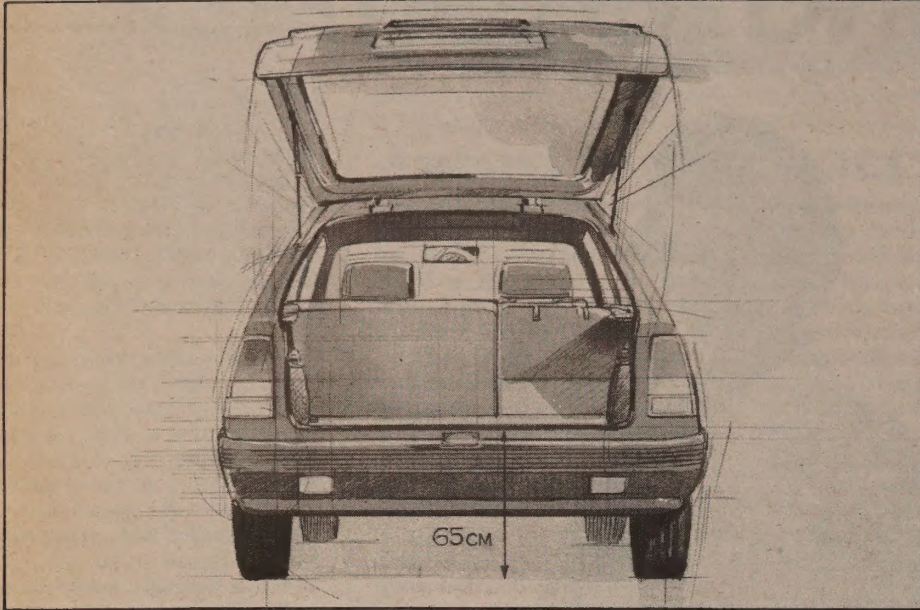
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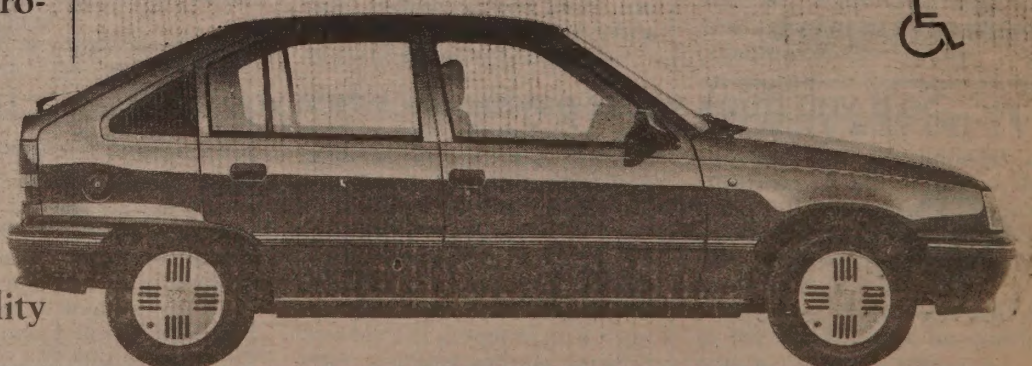
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Stages of a Bill

For a law to be enacted it must pass through a number of stages in both Houses of Parliament.

A Bill may be introduced in either House, usually by the Government, but most Bills start in the Commons and pass through the following stages:

FIRST READING (PRESENTATION)

Formal reading out of the title of the Bill in the House of Commons. It is then printed and proceeds to the Second Reading.

SECOND READING

The debate on the general principles of the Bill taken on the floor of the House with speeches by MPs from both sides.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Most Bills are considered in detail, line by line, by a Standing Committee, which is established just for this purpose and meets regularly. Some, however, are considered in full or part by a Committee of the Whole House. Committee Stage is when amendments and new clauses to Bills are taken. Occasionally non-contentious Bills are considered by a Special Standing Committee which takes evidence from outside bodies, eg the Education Act 1981.

REPORT STAGE

The House receives the Bill back from the Committee, and has further chances to consider new amendments.

THIRD READING

A final opportunity to debate and vote on the Bill as amended, often taken immediately after report stage.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Nearly all legislation goes through similar stages in the House of Lords except that the Committee Stage is always taken on the floor of the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The full House has a chance to discuss and consider the Bill as amended by the House of Lords. If the Commons disagrees it can overturn Lords amendments. When this happens the Bill returns to the Lords for approval.

ROYAL ASSENT

The final stage before a Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.

If you want to contact your MP about legislation making its way through Parliament, it is important to time your representation to coincide with the passage of the Bill. As a general rule, the earlier in the process this is done, the more chance you have of helping to bring about changes.

... but were afraid to ask

Here, Brian Lamb explains how the laws which govern our lives are made

The following information may be helpful if you have not contacted your MP before but would like to do so to discuss a particular issue or personal experience.

Outlined below are suggested ways of contacting your MP. A personal discussion is likely to have more effect than writing. However, if you are unable to meet him/her then still write a letter.

Don't assume that your MP already knows about or supports your case, but remember, MPs represent all their constituents, not just those who voted for them.

IDENTIFYING YOUR MP

If you do not know who your MP is, ask at your local Citizens Advice Bureau, public library, town hall or other public information office.

BEFORE YOU START

Before approaching your MP, make sure you are clear about your objectives and know your facts.

If you are meeting your MP in a group, be clear in advance who will speak. Bear in mind that if your MP has not been sympathetic on other issues then you are seeking to persuade by reasoned argument.

WRITING TO YOUR MP

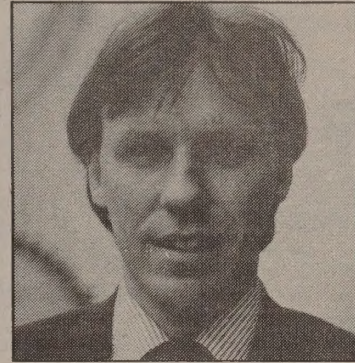
It is always more effective to write to your MP asking him/her to pass your concerns on to the Minister responsible than to write direct to the Minister yourself.

When an MP receives a large number of letters all on the same subject - but different in emphasis - the impact is far greater

than a large number of standard letters.

It creates even more impact if you can give details of a specific case known to you - for example, a young disabled person leaving school for whom no proper provision has been made. You can ask your MP to ask the Minister concerned to look into the details of the particular case.

Write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.



Brian Lamb

MEETING YOUR MP

Most MPs hold regular advice surgeries when they are in the constituency, usually at weekends. This is an opportunity for constituents to go along and discuss problems or raise issues.

If you do not know when your MP's advice surgery is, look in the local paper, ask at the CAB or public library, or contact his/her constituency party/association. Some MPs have an appointment system.

If you are a disabled person or are caring for someone and unable to get out to visit the MPs surgery, write or telephone inviting him or her to visit you at home.

If you are working with a

How to lobby your MP

local group or organisation why not write and invite your MP to visit you at your headquarters or offices?

If there is sufficient interest in an issue it might be worth organising a meeting for your members or the general public. If you do this don't forget to contact the local press to cover the event.

LOBBYING

Every constituent has the right to go to the House of Commons and lobby their MP. You will be asked to fill in a Green Card and if your MP is there he or she should come to the lobby to meet you.

It is not advisable to do this without notice as your MP might be involved in a Committee or at a meeting outside Parliament. Write or telephone the House of Commons (01-219 3000) to make an appointment.

WHAT CAN YOUR MP DO?

Your MP can help, even from the backbenches, in a variety of ways. For example, he or she can

- ★ write to Ministers
- ★ speak in debates
- ★ influence Committees
- ★ vote in a way to help your case
- ★ gain information by putting down questions for oral and written answers
- ★ organise for you to meet other MPs
- ★ apply for an adjournment debate or put down an Early Day Motion - What's that? See next month.

Brian Lamb is The Spastics Society's lobbyist.

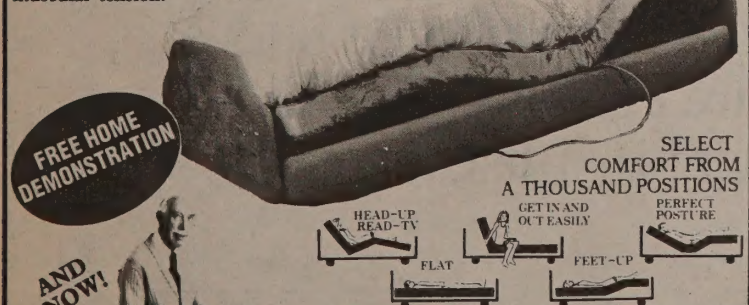
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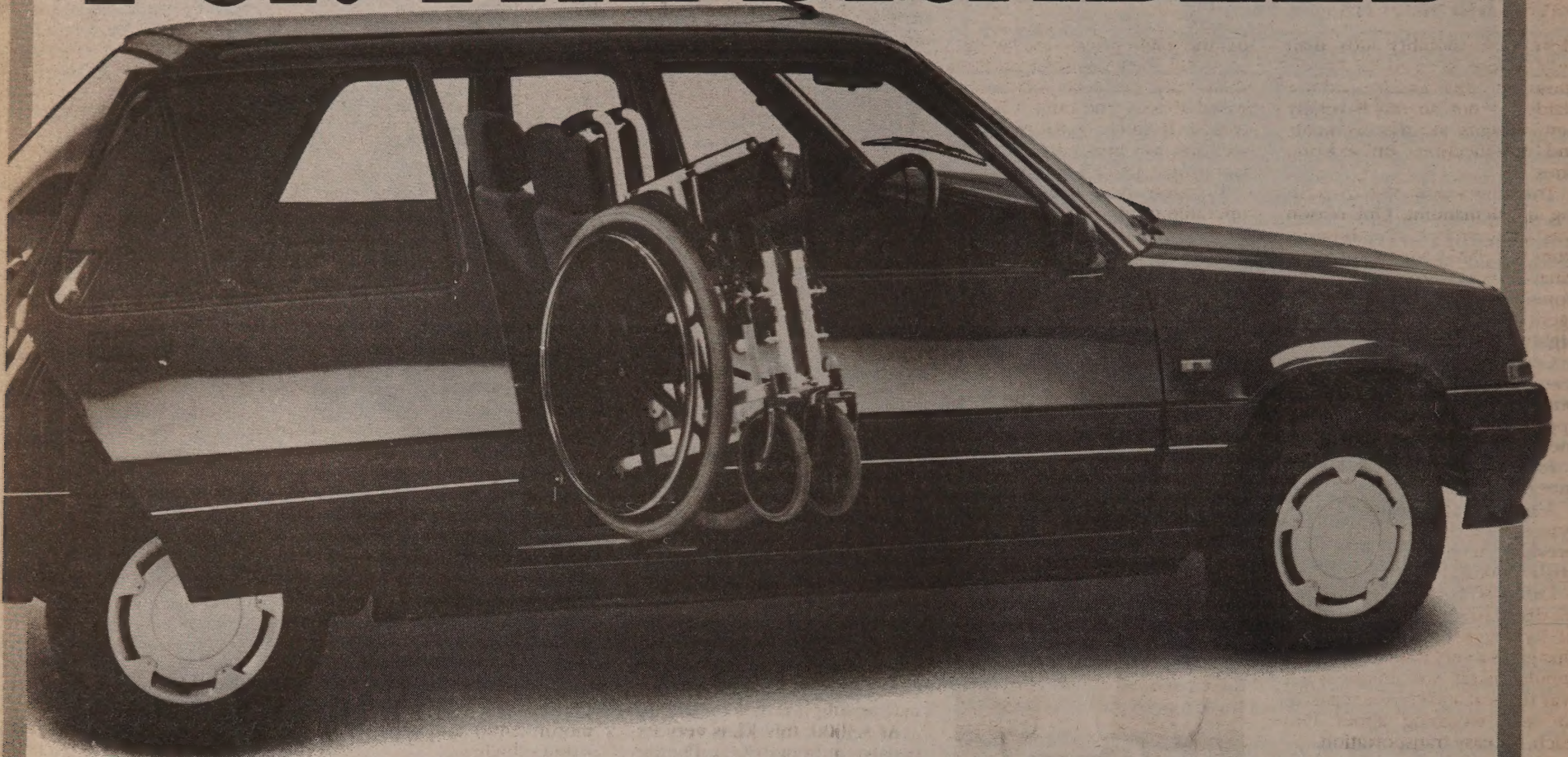
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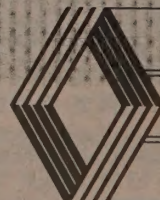
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THERE'S MORE
TO LIFE WITH
RENAULT

Alexandra Palace, magnificently refurbished, was where Naidex celebrated its 15th birthday and 25th exhibition last month. DN's experts were there to report on what's new in mobility, home adaptations and equipment, micro-technology and motoring

naidex'88

There's foreign competition and fatherly inspiration in the mobility stakes

says Tina Stevens

More new mobility aids than ever before seemed to be on show at this year's London Naidex - not so much totally new designs as improvements and modifications on existing lines.

The show was also more exciting and demanding. One reason was the number of exhibitors from the USA, Canada and Scandinavia with innovative aids, hoping to find a good British agent to act on their behalf in the highly prized UK market.

Certainly the UK has much to learn from these countries in both design and aesthetic appeal. I hope some of the equipment will be available here soon.

Fatherly design was also a feature of this Naidex.

A new wheelchair, the **Fenolyte**, from Lieuse Technology, is breaking new ground in wheelchair thinking.

Designed by Bob Fenwick for his disabled son Simon, it is made of Rynite, a toughened plastic that gives a very different look to tubular metal. Also unique is the way the seat and chassis separate in two, weighing about 15lb each, for easy transportation.

The posture-formed, upholstered seat gives good lumbar support and weight distribution, which should help prevent pressure sores.

The Fenolyte comes in only one seat size, 17in, but in three versions: pushchair, self-propelled and powered chair. The pushchair costs only £345, which for an innovative, attractive, well-upholstered chair is keen pricing.

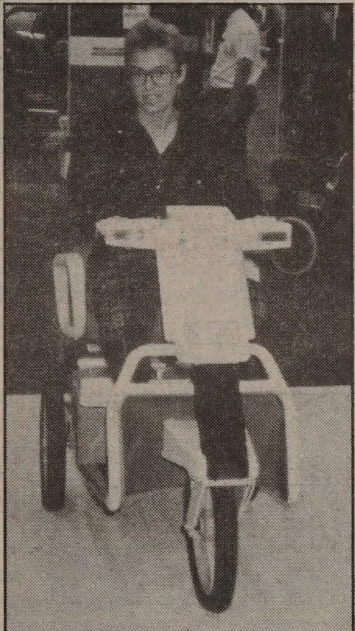
Another wheelchair designed by a father for his disabled son is the **Beecham** chair by Bencraft.

Tom Beecham tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Disablement Services Authority to provide a supportive, comfortable chair for his 27-year-old son, Jonathan, who has cp. In the private market he was deterred

by the high prices, so he designed a chair using an off-the-shelf rally car seat and pram-based chassis, and built it in his garage. It suited Jonathan very well and now Bencraft are manufacturing it, price £400.

I tested two new battery-operated outdoor scooters. The **Elva Europa XL** from Electric Leisure Vehicles (£1395), the deluxe model in the new Europa range, is in an attractive cream and beige livery with a large front wheel which should make it an excellent kerb climber. The fairly high chassis may make getting on and off slightly difficult, but this is essential to clear high kerbs.

Karen Wingate



The Elva Europa XL: excellent suspension and an efficient braking system.

The XL has a useful battery gauge indicator, a large shopping basket as standard, and when in freewheel emits a clearly audible warning.

Its suspension is excellent giving a comfortable drive and it climbs and descends ramps with



Fathers produce the goods. Above, Bob Fenwick's revolutionary Fenolyte chair for his son Simon and, right, Jonathan Beecham is comfortable at last in the chair made by his father Tom.



ease. During descent it braked to a standstill on the incline - a sure sign of an efficient braking system. I also climbed a 5 1/2in kerb relatively easily. Altogether, a good addition to the existing range.

The second power scooter was the **Orthokinetics XL** 8mph version imported from the USA. Guidelines on 4mph vehicles are due to be changed soon making 8mph vehicles legal.

At £3000, this XL is very expensive, although doing 45 miles on a full charge it will have a greater range than most UK vehicles. It climbed a 5 1/2in kerb easily and is said to be capable of 6-7in. Descending the ramp, its

braking system did not hold well; the scooter continued to move on the incline.

Another powered vehicle with a major new feature was the **Batricar 24 Deluxe**. This four-wheel buggy sports a new all-weather "kabin" shield, which encloses the driver in a tough, perspex front windscreen, roll-down sides and a hard top roof. The whole unit articulates so the user can get to the batteries and motor. £400, and it will fit existing vehicles.

A new battery-powered indoor wheelchair with maintenance-free batteries, the **Maxi** from Swereco Rehab, one of the Swedish exhibitors, has a

six-wheel base capable of turning on its own axis - very useful for confined spaces.

When negotiating small obstacles, like a tin threshold, you operate a unique switch which eases the chair on to its back wheels, leaving the front castors to negotiate the obstruction.

The seat can be raised and lowered for reaching shelves or having face to face conversation. The Maxi would be an excellent addition to the indoor workchair range were it not for the price - £4000.

Mangar Aids, famous for its "bellows" bath lifter, has a version which raises and lowers the

continued on page 10



Tina in the Batricar 24 Deluxe with all-weather "kabin" shield.



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naidex '88 ★ naidex '88 ★ naidex '88 ★ naidex '88



Child takes a break in Joncare's Hi-lo Master. It also has a unique mechanism for dealing with kerbs and obstructions.

plus easy transportation. At £345 (excluding accessories), it should be well received.

There are two new children's buggies from Orthokinetics.

The **Reha** buggy (£600, excluding accessories) comes in large or small sizes, either with front castors or a pram base.

The seat is upholstered in soft velour and has a swing-away detachable pommel. There are optional trunk supports and controlling straps.

The buggy is easily controlled on a descent by a handbrake positioned on the pushing bar. The angle of the seat can also be positioned anywhere between 45° and vertical.

The **Kelly** is a more conventional buggy which folds flat. It is a one-frame seat unit with three different sized seat inserts to allow for growth. There is an adjustable drop pommel, a foot plate, positioning straps, a clear plastic tray or playboard and a canopy. £400, excluding accessories.

Another exciting new mobility aid is the **Hi-lo Master** from Joncare - very similar to the **Turbo** chair from Everaids, but at £2500 quite a bit cheaper.

It has a six-wheel base with the large power wheels at the back, but this does not deter the chair from climbing over obstructions or kerbs because it has a unique tilting and retractor mechanism for lifting the front wheels. It looked most impressive to me.

The chair seat can be raised or lowered. It can also be replaced by any of the custom-made seats from the **Thames** range from Joncare.

Walking aids

I looked at three new walking aids.

New-style **crutches** from the USA, made by Luconex are finished in attractive metallic blue lightweight aluminium and fold down to 26in, which will make carrying and storing them so much easier.

But £85 a pair is likely to deter people, especially when most crutches are free.



Pausing to admire a beautiful stained glass window in the Great Hall.

Another foreign import was a new, attractively-styled, lightweight **Rollator** with an integral seat, manufactured by Sam Hall. Also made of aluminium and finished in metallic blue, it is likely to cost over £100.

The third walking aid is the new **Shopper** from Uniscan (£155). In small and standard adult sizes, it incorporates a seat for resting and a fairly large shopping basket.

Tina Stevens, formerly of the Disabled Living Foundation, is to manage an equipment centre for Keep Able Ltd in London.

continued from page 9
seat of a manual wheelchair.

I expected to feel unstable when the **Mangar Genie** reached its maximum height (34 in), but even when I attempted to lean out I stayed firmly stable - no mean achievement!

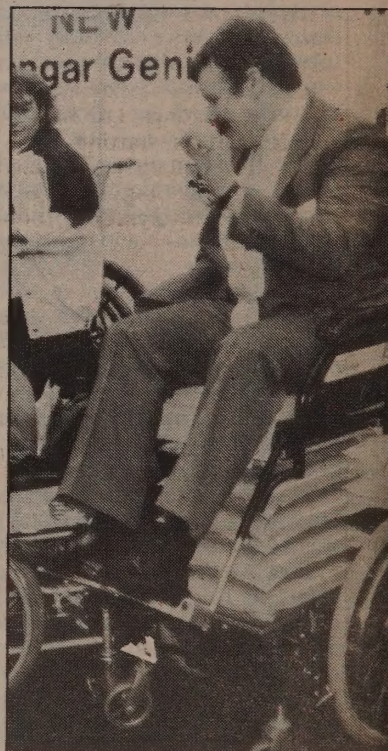
The booster can also be used separately as a seat lifter for bathing. It is hoped to produce the Genie for less than £1300. Talks are also going on with the DHSS.

Adolescent/child buggies and chairs

Mobility Aids of Peterborough have introduced a new buggy. The **Cruiser 4T** is imported from California and offers a lightweight, transportable buggy for the adolescent user who needs posture control. It has adjustable seat depth, seat angle, hip abductor and body strapping to give a very good system of support,



Tina also has a rest - on the smart Rollator finished in metallic blue.



Mangar's really stable seat booster



The lightweight Cruiser 4T for ado

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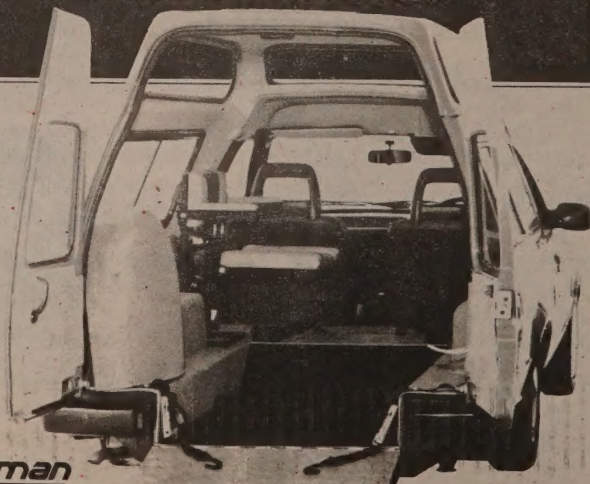


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Group similar stands together

pleads a weary Margaret Gilbert

Naidex this year was in the beautiful setting of the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace. There was plenty of space, and a calm, unhurried atmosphere.

However, the exhibition was enormous needing route marches between stands selling similar products. It would be far better for similar stands to be grouped together. People with disabilities, or parents of disabled children, do not want to exhaust themselves searching things out and nor do busy therapists with perhaps two hours to spare.

It was useful to have so many societies represented eg VOCAL, RADAR and the RNIB. The DHSS stand was full of helpful leaflets.

British Gas showed two **low cost central heating systems** for small homes, one at only £799, fully installed.

The Electricity Board had useful **adapted switches** and **cooking aids**, and the friendly staff of the National Westminster Bank showed their excellent **banking services** for customers with visual disabilities eg braille print-outs of accounts.

Home adaptations

Larger adaptations for housing and public buildings were well represented.

Stannah showed the prototype of their new **automatic wheelchair lift**. It is expected to cost about £6,500, which seems reasonable for public buildings and workplaces.

PCP Gratings Ltd had **portable ramps** starting at £100 which were light-weight and had a good gripping surface. The **G.R.P. ramp system** produced in Scotland at £42 a foot, is permanently and quickly fitted with handrails. Either would be a suitable alternative for people who have been waiting for up to a year for an improvement grant for built-in ramps. Worth mentioning them to Social Services as an alternative.

For little more than the cost of

getting a builder to re-hang a door (£200 upwards) **Reduced Swing Doors** move through 180 degrees, maximise floor and wall space and are easier to open and close than conventional doors. Excellent for bathrooms for wheelchair users.

Again, as a stop-gap whilst waiting for an improvement grant for a downstairs bathroom, parents of children with disabilities might consider using a **Parker Kebo 3000 shower trolley** and changing table. Now available in a 5ft 3in length, it could be plumbed in temporarily in a child's downstairs bedroom. Fully adjustable in height with an offset column for ease of transfer to bed, it costs £1,650. Social services should be approached to buy the trolley for loan.

It was good to see the number of children's pushchairs that have been adopted by the DHSS. Camp has the Rookwood system; Rainbow the Alvegas; Ortho-Kinetics has the Kelly (see *Tina Stevens' comments*) for larger children and Joncare has the Sulky. No more excuses for nasty looking Ministry chairs that are unsupportive and hard to push.

From Christina Gordon through the Jarvis Manufacturing Company comes a new **waterproof lifting system**. The

harness is fitted from the front and does not have to go under the user. Many disabled people will be able to use it unaided. It can also be used as a standing harness to help people with long-term bladder and constipation problems (harness and frame £298).

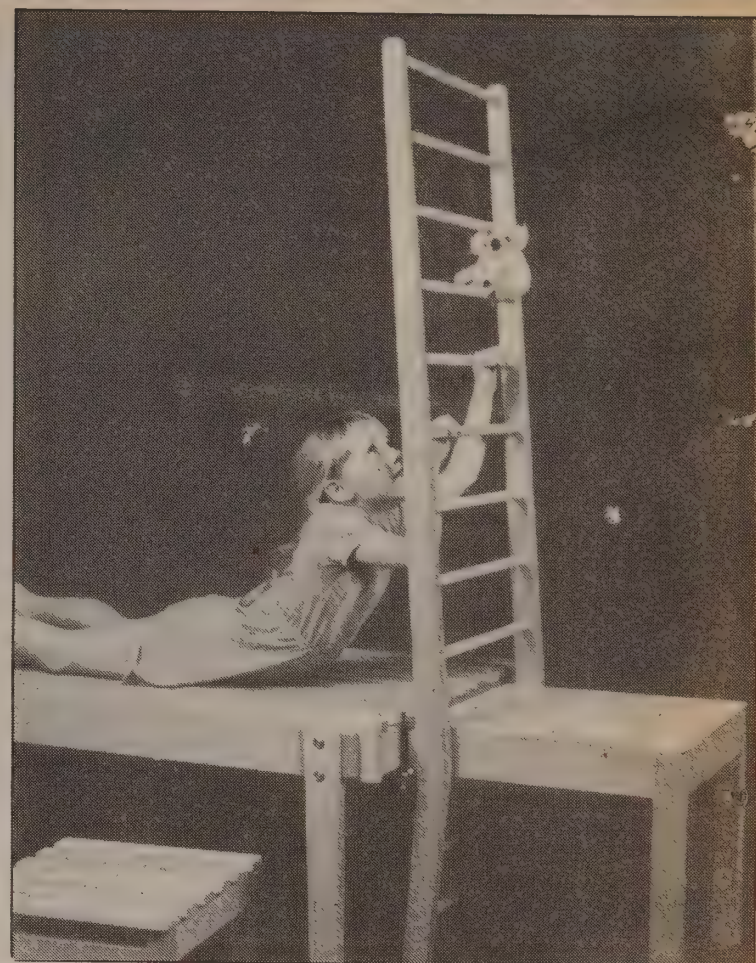
For children

A tour of the children's equipment showed Clive Jenkins of Jenx now producing a revolutionary concept in seating for severely cerebral palsied children.

Called the **Prone-Angle Chair** it encourages improved postural tone with the minimum of support and hip and back position can be viewed constantly. Excellent for monitoring possible deformity.

As a prototype, it was found to be particularly good for children with athetosis and low tone, whose arm function improved. From £130 for a starter infant chair to £325 for a complete junior size. Well worth the price for its inbuilt adaptability.

Smurthwaite answer the problems of all groups using conductive education methods with children. Their variety of **plinths** (from £118), adjustable **ladderback chairs** (£82.50)



Reach for the koala - Smurthwaite ladderback chair and plinth.

and **footboxes** (£38.50 for three) make seating children well, quick and easy and save hours of therapists' time spent looking for suitable chairs. Also, their new adjustable **holster chair** at £92 is the first reasonably priced abduction seating for children.

The Rifton furniture, craftsmen made; virtually indestructible, but with prices to match, have three new items.

Their ever popular **bath chairs** (£219-£269) are now available on raised aluminium platforms - an ideal solution for showering children who have no sitting balance.

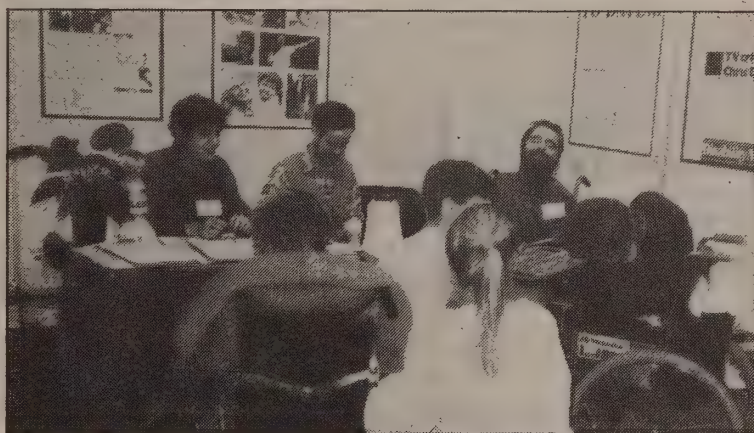
The adolescent **potty chair** now has a splash guard for boys

and can be adjusted to fit over a conventional lavatory (£180). And a **hand-driven trike** in a new medium size is excellent for cp children with spastic diplegia (£266).

Camp Therapy were showing the new **Hensinger head support**. A foam, wrap-around collar which maintains mid-line head positioning, helps with breathing and swallowing and may finally solve the problems of long journeys in the school bus.

I'm keeping my cheap cheerful finds for next month - possible Christmas presents!

Margaret Gilbert is an advisory occupational therapist with The Spastics Society.



DN's stand was busy as usual. (470 people joined the mailing list). Chris Davies (right) was there to help with Phil Harris, and Gerry Holden (left) of the DN team.

Little new in microtech, but lots to see

Janet Larcher reports

While little of the microtechnology equipment on display at Naidex this time was completely new, there were several items which have been improved or need mentioning.

First to catch my eye was a **speech controlled wheelchair**, developed and manufactured in France by Kempf. It requires only 5 easily reproduced sounds to go forwards, left, right, reverse and stop.

The chair has 4 gears (speeds). Changing up through the gears is done by repeating the sound for forwards. Emergency stop or sleep mode (overriding the voice controls) is activated by pressure on a switch behind the head. The sound commands are picked up by a microphone attached to the throat, so noisy surroundings, eg Naidex, do not reduce its efficiency.

While most suited to people with good communication but limited limb control it has, with additional logic circuits, been supplied to 2 people with cerebral palsy.

This intelligent and well thought-out wheelchair system

(£5-6,000 for chair and voice control) is not yet available in the UK but it should be within a year and its distributors will be Special Vehicle Options.

The same command system can also be used to operate environmental controls; one person actually moves pieces on a chess board.

On the communications front, there are several changes.

Easiads were displaying the **D.A.V.E. communicator**. (£455-£495) which offers 16 two-second phrases. Each phrase may be recorded separately and is therefore real, rather than synthetic, speech. Phrases are selected using a single switch scanning system.

The **Elfin My Voice** now comes in three formats: direct touch; touch via a concept keyboard and switch control scanning.

My Voice (£1,000 plus, depending on format) offers 63 two-second phrases or 127 one-second phrases of real speech. Once again the phrases may be recorded or re-recorded by anyone.

Having seen the Toby Churchill advertisements in the press

it was good to see the new, small **Lightwriter SL1** (£383). For someone with the manual dexterity to use small keys; it could be a very useful aid, since it can be carried in a largish pocket or handbag.

A prototype version with larger keys will still require typewriter dexterity. A scanning version is planned.

The Foundation for the Communication of the Disabled were excited by a new device described as a cross between a Microwriter and a Psion organiser, available soon.

Meanwhile they have a **Microscribe** (£390-£465 depending on memory capacity) which again is a large pocket-sized device with a miniature keyboard, 2-line display, simple word processing and 10 brief messages. It can be used as an input device into an IBM compatible computer.

The Foundation also has a useful information sheet on programmes which might make IBM compatible computers easier to use for people without full finger dexterity, ie turning multiple

continued on page 12

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continued from page 11

key operations into sequences of single key ones.

They were also displaying the new version of the Dolphin Cosmic speech synthesizer, called the **Apollo** - better speech and much easier to understand. (When it is on the market, the price will be around £310.)

Liberator had the first **Intro-**

There has been a boom in environmental control systems.

The recently launched **Possum PSU6 system** was on display both at the Possum and DHSS stands. Forty different operations are possible, including opening and shutting doors, windows, curtains etc, turning the TV on and off and also selecting a channel and changing the

A simpler system of environmental control, the **Hugh Steeper**, is still available through the DHSS.

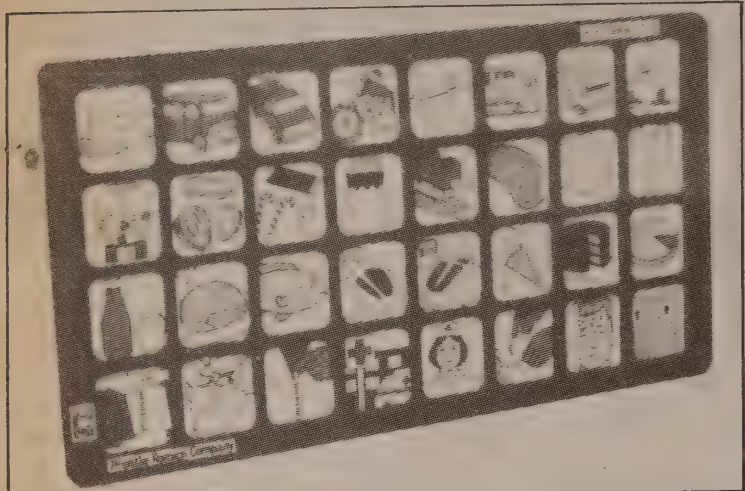
I was impressed by the **Infrared Eyeblink switch** from Possum Controls - one way to operate their environmental control system. Its beam is reflected off the lid of the eye (much safer than off the cornea or retina). The tiny transmitter may be attached to existing spectacle frames or to empty frames where no lenses are required.

Still on switches, **Easias** were showing the **Wolfson touch switches**, which are just a metal plate of any size from 12in x 9in to 1in square, with a lead attaching them to a control box. Applied imaginatively, they could be useful in many situations.

Orange Aids, now under the **Mobilia** label, that useful collection of rods and clamps which allow almost anything to be fixed almost anywhere, comes in new, tasteful colours (brown and cream).

For more information, and to see the equipment, contact **The Spastics Society's Microtechnology Resource Centre**, 840 Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey, tel: 01-660 8552. There are open days each month. For details, ask for **Philippa Mack**.

Dr Janet Larcher heads the **Microtech Resource Centre**.



New **Introtalker**, the junior version of the **TouchTalker**.

talker (£500) available in this country, with more available soon. This junior version of **TouchTalker** also runs **Minspeak** software. It offers a maximum of 32 large square inputs, rather than the potential of 128 inputs offered by **Touch** or **LightTalker** but costs less than a quarter of their price.

volume.

All the facilities are available through the DHSS, so if you think you might qualify, ask your GP if you may be assessed for environmental control. An assessor will decide if you qualify, how you will operate the **PSU6** and what will need to be done to your home.



Up and away in a "revolutionary" under-floor wheelchair lift - **Chris Davies** tries the **VW conversion**.

Get into the driving seat!

John Byworth looks at two conversions that make it easier

This year's **Naidex** was disappointing from the motoring point of view, with nothing really new or exciting. No doubt all the manufacturers were saving their energy for the **Birmingham Motorshow** (see next month).

There were, however, several good opportunities to try out models previously reviewed in **DN**. This included the **Chairman** range from **Gowrings** and the **Brotherwood conversion** of the **Nissan Prairie**.

The **Crusader**, a purpose-built maxi-estate car, received a good deal of attention.

This car has been in production in various forms since 1984. As yet **DN** has not been able to get a test car (we won't be giving up).

The latest version has a roll-through option, allowing wheelchair driving - always of great interest to readers, especially those who have to transfer in the rain.

Stratford Specialist Vehicles are aware of the high cost of the **Crusader** and the often low mileage users need. A version constructed from secondhand parts is available, with prices as low as £8,000.

Stratford don't stop there either. They also offer a selling service for cars with all types of conversion. The cost of this service is £50, which is discounted for people buying a **Crusader**.

The **Volkswagen conversion** by **Invatravel Conversions** has a different approach, allowing you to get your wheelchair inside the van before

transferring.

It uses a revolutionary **under-floor wheelchair lift**, made by **Henderson Mobile**, and the longlasting **VW van** with its rear engine giving clear space at the front.

The driver enters the van on the lift and transfers to the revolving driver's seat - in the dry. The lift and door can be closed from the inside so there is no need for additional help.

The automatic van is as easy to drive as any large car, and it can carry up to 6 other people!

It also has the advantage that **Volkswagen** are always reluctant to change models and the whole conversion can be bolted into another van as required.

All the other favourite manufacturers were at **Naidex**, with a good display of wheelchair transporters.

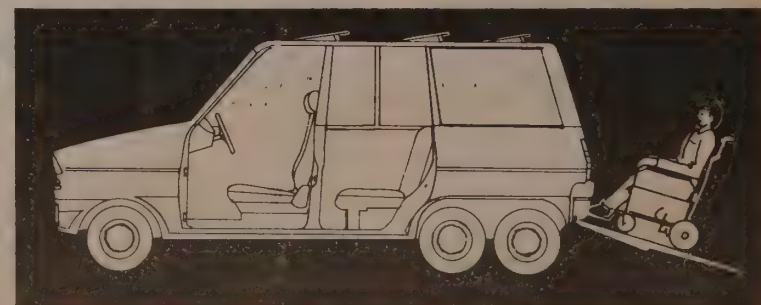
Vauxhall was much in evidence with an impressive 30-model range, available through the **Vauxhall Mobility Programme**.

Alfred Bekker offered advice on all the types of hand controls now available.

I shall be trying out the new **Cavalier** as soon as it is available.

Stratford Specialist Vehicles Ltd, Unit A, **Altarn Industrial Estate**, **Revenge Road**, **Lordswood**, **Chatham**, **Kent ME5 8OD**. Tel: (0634) 684465.

Invatravel Conversions, 66 **Knob Hall Lane**, **Southport**, **Merseyside PR9 9QS**. Tel: (0704) 231081.



Wheelchair roll-through option on the latest **Crusader**.



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MUSIC

With the release of Heart 'n' Soul's first single the Big Time looms. Julian Marshall heard about their plans

In the 2½ years since they came together at a series of music workshops in Lewisham, Heart 'n' Soul have grown into the best known and most-loved performers on the disability arts scene. They may soon be the most successful too.

Their live performances of *Rock and Roll Dance*, a *West Side Story*-type tale of rival gangs, *The Longest*, a more sophisticated exploration of the theme of isolation, and most recently *Peace on Earth*, have inspired audiences, mainly in London, and justified the name they chose for themselves.

Now they are on the verge of a much wider national - possibly international - audience.

This month their first single hits the record shops. *Peace on Earth*, recorded at Islington Music Workshop, could be the Christmas song for 1988.

A Spring tour is to follow and there are plans for another single and an LP next year.

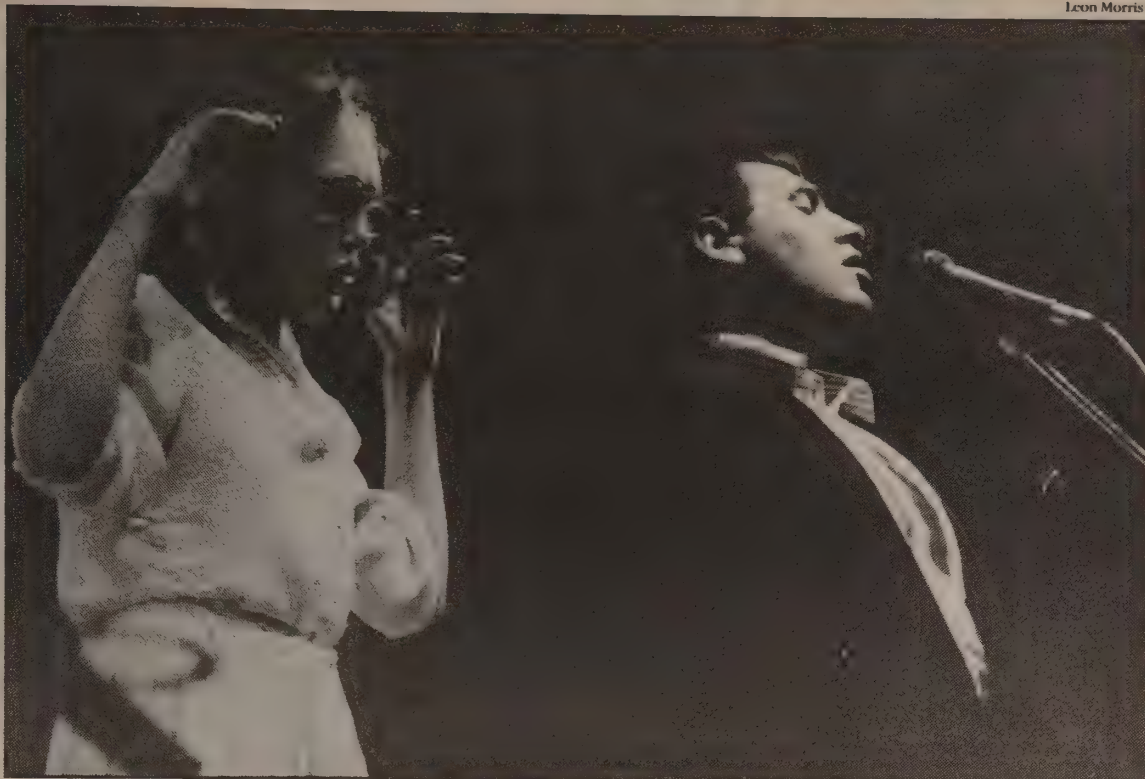
They have been approached by London Weekend Television and the Australian Broadcasting Company to appear in documentaries (although there is nothing concrete yet), and a *DN* reader in India has asked them to play there.

"We definitely want to go professional. All my life I have wanted to sing," says Pino Friumento, one of the lead singers.

"We want to be rich and famous and go on *Top of the Pops*" adds Winston Green, compere of their latest show.

The other 10 members of the

Riches, fame - and Peace on Earth



Sarah Stephens (left) and Pino Friumento play the unhappy TV viewers in *Peace on Earth*.

band agree, but the fun and fame side of things is only part of the picture. "We want to show other people what we are really like," says Geoffrey Goodall, the other lead singer and general cheerleader/rabble-rouser for the band.

All Heart 'n' Soul productions are self-devised and self-written. They only have help to translate their ideas into music from Mark Williams, their musical director and bassist of their backing band Jodelko, plus they get choreographic help from director Alix Parker.

Mark teaches percussion at the Lewisham Academy of Music, and it was he who started the band off, teaching them to play songs they knew, before helping them to write their own material. *Peace on Earth* took about 6 months to put together.

"Their expectations have changed about what they can do," he says of the band, who all have some degree of learning difficulty. "It has given them a lot of optimism for the future and they have earned a lot of respect from people at their day centres and from their families and friends."

"People often don't think that mentally handicapped people are really quite people, but in their songs it shows that they have a strong awareness of what's going on in the world. They can see the bad things going on and want to change it."

Such as? "People fighting and starving wars. We were trying to stop this when we wrote *Peace on Earth*," says Sarah Stephens, who played an irate TV viewer who wants to change the world.

"I would like to see Mrs Thatcher face to face and tell her

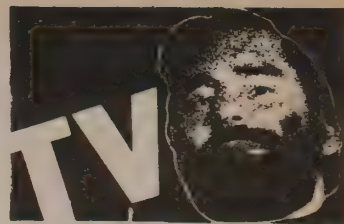
that she is doing things wrong," says Geoffrey to spontaneous clapping and cheering from the others.

Demand for membership of the band is so great that Heart 'n' Soul II is to be formed, to be trained by 2 members of the original band.

In the meantime, they are raring to get out and take the world by storm. "Where are we going?" demands Geoffrey in cheerleader-mode. "To the top!" is the mass reply. You have been warned.

Details of their tour are available from the Albany Empire, tel: 01-691 9016. They still have dates free if anyone would like to book them.

The single is released on 28 November on Fly Records and distributed by Pinnacle.



Opening the box

My excuse for concentrating on only one programme this month is that *Rights Not Charity* (BBC2, 13 October), an Open Space special from the BBC Community Programmes Unit, took 90 minutes of prime time television.

Open Space permits viewers to make programmes with the BBC. *Rights Not Charity* was ostensibly made by Colin Low and Patricia Rock, two disabled activists.

While I don't doubt the commitment and good intentions of the producer and director, the way they, as able-bodied professionals, shaped the programme may have been different to how it would have been if left to disabled people.

I say this because the target audience seemed to be exclusively able-bodied. Many of us believe our first target is disabled people, because until we convince and organise ourselves, we face an even more unequal struggle with the majority.

Therefore, rather than have so many able-bodied people in the studio discussion, I would have preferred to see disabled people discussing how we can improve things for ourselves. The able-bodied members were there to pacify the target audience.

Also, the programme was about self-advocacy and deaf people are a large proportion of the disabled community. Yet they had little access to what was being advocated on their behalf. Ceefax subtitles were provided for those who have special sets and the repeat (BBC2, 19 October) carried sign language interpretation.

But why should they have to wait for a second, off-peak, showing? Because able-bodied people may not tolerate the smaller picture to accommodate the interpreter. Able-bodied interest first; deaf interest second.

In 50 minutes the programme covered the new social security system, discrimination in employment and education, charities acting on behalf of disabled people, telethons and television appeals, and the fights for equal rights in America and Sweden. In other words, too much, too quickly, in not enough depth. All to impress the average "ignorant" able-bodied person.

Having covered so much ground in the film, it had to do likewise in the studio discussion. The result lacked bite. For example, the promised land of integration was mentioned countless times, but not on whose terms it is to be achieved or whether it is worth achieving at any price.

Parts of the film were repeated in the discussion. The choice of clips managed to emphasise dependency by showing someone getting out of bed and in various stages of undress, although he was talking about independence.

Despite my reservations, in time, resources and intention the programme did give disability more serious consideration than is usual.

I've said before that disabled people need a serious, investigative series of their own. Open Space could point the way - provided editorial control is genuinely ours and we don't concede too much.

Chris Davies

Stepping out with Style

Bobbi Style checks-out an old church with a new use

The sight that meets us as we arrive at the Tabernacle - the first nightclub for people with disabilities - is a large gothic church, which is very atmospheric, and very rare in Notting Hill.

Entrance to the church (now a community centre) is via the only ramp-style fire escape I have ever seen, on the right-hand side of the building.

Driving up it makes me feel like Prince entering his sleazy club on his motorbike - very purple!

My eyes are greeted by low candlelight, tables, wine and, for the more serious, church pews for you to hear tonight's acts from.

Then the sound hits my ears: jazz! This is supplied by Rickie Jodelko, whose guitar and vocal style evokes images of smoke-filled cellars crammed with "dames 'n' dukes" - straight from New Orleans. Someone pay the man!

Then the sleaze begins - Alan Sutherland's prime-time subject. This adds to the Paris-New Orleans feel that is so body-warming. Is he Tom Waits? Is he Alan B'Stard? Who knows, but his slice of humorous cake, spiced with sarcasm, is very refreshing and everybody laughed avidly at his banter.

Food for thought is provided by Simon Brisenden's poetry and Isobel Ward's music. Simon is

also interviewed by Sian Vesey - interviews are a regular feature at the club.

Simon is, I'm sure, the next John Cooper Clarke. His tapes are on sale at all his gigs and are essential listening. I'm not certain when he's next appearing, but I'll be there.

The evening's final act is a music and drama set from Isobel Ward (who's expecting her first baby) and hubby Mark. The only fault, if any, is that the set is not long enough. This is the real Isobel Ward, who pulls no punches to get her point across. There was no one pulling her strings tonight!

I must mention that the facilities for us "well-wheeled" types are good.

Not only can you drink comfortably, but you can relieve yourself too.

Well, sadly, the end of a great evening. The club is open every other Thursday, and opens at 7.30 pm (until 10.30 pm), so anyone dependent on Dial-a-Ride can still experience that late night feeling.

I know I will be there next time, so see you there!

PS - Book a Dial-a-Ride in advance. The taxis there and back to Hackney cost me £25.

The Tabernacle, Powis Square, London W11. Tel: 01-727 9601



Bobbi Style and Isobel Ward cool-out in the Tabernacle bar.

Look out for . . .

The Henry Moore exhibition at the Royal Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1 has tours once a week for visually impaired and blind visitors, with the chance to touch four Moore sculptures (bronze, plaster and fibreglass). For details contact the Academy's education department on 01-439 7438 ext 251/2/3.

The Last Chance Centre in Hammersmith is running another season of free wheelchair accessible films on Friday matinees. The remaining films in the season include *Oliver!*, *Storm Warning*, *A Man for all*

Seasons and *Eduating Rita*. Last Chance Centre, 87 Masbro Road, London W14. Tel: 01-748 3020.

The Beggar in the Palace is a new play written in British Sign Language, English and Bengali by Penny Casdagli and Caroline Griffin. It will be performed by the integrated deaf/hearing Neti-Neti Theatre Company at the Young Vic Studio from 15-19 November, Battersea Arts Centre on 21 & 22 November, Riverside Studios on 23 November and the Cockpit Theatre on 25 & 26 November. For details of times and other venues write to Neti-Neti Theatre Co, 44 Gladsmuir Road, London N19 3JU, tel: 01-272 7302.

Community Transport Event: Richard Armitage reports

"Shove hard and loud for resources" – delegates told

Karen Wingate

"Community transport is an idea whose time has come," Leeds city councillor Michael Simmons told delegates from the UK and abroad who were meeting last month at Leeds University for the annual Community Transport Event.

As chair of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' Public Transport Committee, he urged the delegates to "shove hard and loud" for proper resources.

"There were 54 training units, seminars and conference workshops available for the 550 delegates this year plus, for the fourth time, an exhibition of accessible minibuses, passenger

lifts and restraint systems. Altogether, 1,000 people went along.

There was a visible increase in the number of people with disabilities, which was welcomed by the organisers, the Community Transport Association. There was also a small increase in the number putting themselves forward for the Association's committee and various sub-groups at the AGM.

A motion from Councillor Steve Cribb of Hounslow Community Transport, proposing reserved committee places for people with disabilities, was defeated after a detailed debate.



A lowered rear and shallow ramp makes access to the CVE Omni easy.

But the meeting committed the Association to improving the proportion of people with disabilities and women in its structure.

The conference covered nine key issues: equal opportunities, the Employment Training scheme, campaigning, safe travel, funding, poverty and the Social Fund, vehicle design, training and forthcoming legislation. At the plenary session on the final day, a range of practical steps were adopted unanimously.

For example, an international campaign is to be launched before Christmas to persuade manufacturers of powered and manual wheelchairs and scooters to ensure that all their products can be clamped down in a minibus.

The Association will also campaign for seat belts to be fitted to all seats in mini-buses, vehicles to be clearly marked with the maximum number of wheelchairs permitted, wheelchair restraints to be compulsory and minimum standards for seat design and strength.

Taken together, the proposals provide the Association with a coherent plan for the next twelve months, which has the backing of community transport operators and users from all over the country.

The highlight of the exhibition was the Omni from City Vehicle Engineering, a purpose-built minibus based on the tried and tested Austrian Steyr, but with some startling innovations.

No passenger lift is needed be-

cause the rear of the bus lowers to within 4in of the ground and wheelchair passengers just go up a shallow, pull-out ramp and through a wide door.

Inside, the floor is flat and the height to roof is a spacious 6ft 6in. The bus has a steel cage to protect passengers in a roll-over.

It takes up to 18 people or a maximum of 8-10 wheelchairs. Price: £22,000 to £25,000. The first one has just been delivered to Durham County Council.

City Vehicle Engineering Ltd, Hackworth Industrial Park, Shildon, County Durham DL4 1HF, tel: (0388) 775115.

Richard Armitage is Secretary of the Community Transport Association.

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BOOKS

Spinal Network – The Total Resource for the Wheelchair Community

compiled by Sam Maddox
(Available from Spinal Injuries Association, Newport House, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DF. £20 inc p & p. £16 for SIA members.)

This is a wonderful American book – the epitome of the "one you can't put down".

As well as being a major reference work, containing comprehensive information on a wide range of aspects of spinal cord injury, it is liberally spiced with individuals' views. This makes it compulsive reading and a refreshing change from the turgid style of many directories.

The book illustrates how disabled people can control their own lives in order to gain equal status in all activities in society.

In its 300-odd pages *Spinal Network* covers sports and recreation, travel, computers, sexuality, civil rights, legal and financial issues, media, prevention, personal care and equipment. It also has a comprehensive resource section.

The section on spinal cord injury itself includes a brief but fascinating history, details of injury types, brief physiology and statistics. Here, the glossary shows the book's approach: the medical term "electromyographic

biofeedback" is included alongside the down-to-earth "bladder training".

Many of the personal accounts are updates to the book *Options – Spinal Cord Injury and the Future* by Barry Corbet (National Spinal Cord Injury Association, 600 West Cummings Park, Suite 2000, Woburn, Mass 01801). These snappy features are included under subject sections and bring each topic to life with a stimulating and subjective tone. Delving into any part of *Spinal Network* – even if you disagree with the content of a section – is fascinating and, sometimes, enlightening.

Serious issues such as rehabilitation, research and disability rights are tackled head-on in frank interviews with experts such as Roberta Trieschmann, who wrote one of the first books to challenge the medical approach to disability, and Judy Heumann, a disabled rights activist.

The language used in the book is more positive and challenging than that used over here: "affirmative action" is US-speak for positive discrimination, patients are "consumers of medical services", ABs is used for able bods. The concept of TABs, or temporarily able bodied people (everyone is going to be old one day), is a new perspective for the UK.

Spinal Network is a must for all spinal cord injured people, their families and friends. It is also to be highly recommended to wheelchair users, regardless of the nature of their impairment, and is a great eye-opener for anyone fighting for the emancipation of disabled people.

Chris Lofthouse
Spinal Injuries Association

Who's This Sitting in My Pew?

by Faith Bowers
(SPCK £2.95)

The author of this down-to-earth and informative paperback is a member of the committee of CHAD (Church Action on Disability) and the mother of Richard, who is in his late teens and has Downs Syndrome.

When Richard was a baby one of Faith's first questions was, "Will he be able to think at all?". She and her husband are active members of the Baptist Church and one of their main concerns was to know whether Richard would ever understand anything about Christianity or develop a personal faith.

She writes frankly and with much practical wisdom about the problems involved in welcoming people with mental handicaps into active church fellowship. Even more importantly, she points out that all of us have a great deal to learn from these members of the body of Christ – about their awareness of God, the reality of worship and the sense of belonging.

Using illustrations from Richard's life (he is now an active member of his church) and from members of other churches who have mental handicaps, Faith raises many spiritual and practical issues.

This book will give encouragement and practical ideas, emphasising as it does how people with mental handicaps can and do think about Jesus and how much their often uncomplicated faith and the opportunities to be involved mean to them.

Margaret Morgan

Careers

Entrepreneur finds success

Toby Churchill has been running his own business for 15 years, but on his own admission the first ten were "very much uphill".

In 1968 he was halfway through a degree course in engineering when he contracted encephalitis from a polluted swimming pool. This left him almost completely paralysed, and though he has regained a little movement over the years, he has never regained his speech.

It was the frustration of being forced, at 21, to rely on spelling boards to communicate that led him to invent the Lightwriter, now one of Britain's most successful communication aids.

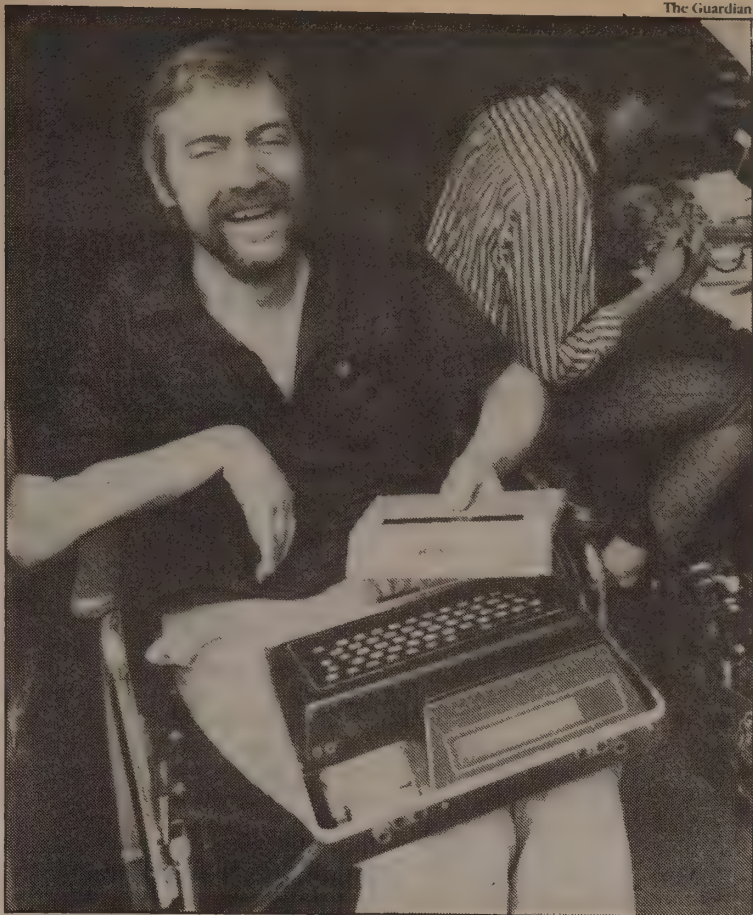
After two years rehabilitation Toby completed his degree by post and then, in 1973, set about designing a machine that would enable him to communicate more easily. The interest generated by his first prototype, a crude version of today's SL4 Lightwriter, convinced him his idea had business potential and he set up shop on the kitchen table at home.

Business grew slowly. "I built one and sold it, built 5 and sold them, then 25, then 100, always walking a tightrope," said Toby on his SL4.

The breakthrough came in 1982 when he came up with a completely new machine with two-sided digital display, which allows natural face-to-face communication, a memory and an optional printer.

Toby then approached the Department of Industry for help and they agreed to sponsor the first 30 new machines for display in centres around the country. This "pump-priming" worked, prompting a steady flow of inquiries and orders. Demand roughly quadrupled.

Since then the Lightwriter SL4 has been further improved.



Be your own boss

Karen Wingate talked to three self-employed people about their businesses

It now comes with a smart attache case, and the latest development is a built-in speech synthesiser. It has been joined by a new model, the SL1, a simpler, cheaper and even more compact version which has now overtaken the SL4 as the best seller.

Toby Churchill Ltd employs 4 people full-time and up to 20 on subcontracts or a consultancy basis. All the administration is done from one small room, packed with components, in the Cambridge house Toby shares with his parents. Assembly and distribution are done from the garage.

Business continues to grow,

with media exposure helping sales - Toby has been on *Tomorrow's World* three times in the past 15 years. A piece about him on the BBC World Service recently has already resulted in inquiries from Italy and Portugal.

Exports are rapidly taking off too. Lightwriters are now sold in the USA, Denmark, New Zealand, Switzerland and Norway.

"When people around you say no, don't listen," is Toby Churchill's advice to other would-be entrepreneurs. "Just ignore them when they say it's impossible."

Toby Churchill Ltd, 20 Panton Street, Cambridge CB2 1HP.

A business ready to grow

When Frank Gardner lost his sight five years ago he refused to give up his green fingers too, and set up his own business selling shrubs and conifers.

Last month Frank Gardner Nurseries won the top £5,000 prize in the Royal National Institute for the Blind's "An Eye for Business" competition.

Frank, 25, always had a passion for growing things, and got a job with a local nursery in Banbury, Oxfordshire, straight out of school. He had been there three years when his sight began to deteriorate, due to an hereditary disease, and within two years he was totally blind.

At the rehabilitation centre several new job options were suggested to him, but none appealed. "They told me I could be a telephonist or do light engineering, but I thought that sounded awful. I love growing things and I wanted to work outdoors so I decided I would have a go at doing what I had done in the past."

Frank joined a one-year course at the RNIB's Royal College in Hereford, where he learnt braille and business skills. He also did a couple of weeks work experience in a nursery to prove that he could manage and all the time practised horticulture in his back garden at home.

When he finished the course

in May 1987, Frank set up his business, with a loan from the bank to get started and the help of the local authority-backed Homeworkers Scheme. Under the scheme the council bumps up your income to a living wage,



Frank gets his hands dirty.

if you can show a profit of £15 a week.

He admits he was anxious at first. "I knew I could handle the practical side of it, but as for running a business, that was a different matter. I wasn't sure if it could support me financially."

With no employees, Frank's biggest overhead is renting a half-acre piece of land from the council, where he grows and stores his conifers and shrubs for sale to trade and retail.

He does not use any special equipment, except for his guide dog Ilk, and braille labels, which he makes himself on a braille

typewriter.

His family give some help, and his brother Derek does the driving for him, delivering and taking plants to shows. He is thinking of using his £5,000 prize money to buy a trailer to use with his brother's car, or to buy a van.

His ideal vision of the future would be to have his own house with a large piece of land, and one other full-time worker so that he did not have to rely on his family.

"I love being self-employed," he said. "The only drawback is that I like growing new plants and a wide range of plants, but I can't grow what I want to. It's a bit of shame when you have to grow 10,000 of one thing, but that's business!"

Where to get help

For people starting up a new business, the Department of Employment runs the Enterprise Allowance Scheme. If you have been unemployed for at least 8 weeks and have £1,000 to invest the Government will help by paying you £40 a week on top of what you earn. Department of Employment, Caxton House, Totbill St, London SW1.

The Department of Trade & Industry runs the Enterprise Initiative which helps new and existing small businesses. DTI, 1-19 Victoria St, London SW1.

The Disablement Advisory Service's Special Aids to Employment Scheme may be able to provide any special equipment you need. DAS, Rockingham House, 123 West St, Sheffield S1 4ER.

Designing for the future

Jennifer Jones had been a freelance practising architect for 10 years when, in 1962, she discovered she had Multiple Sclerosis.

She knew nothing of the disease, but an uncle, who was a doctor, filled her in. He told her the most important thing was that she had plenty of rest.

Divorced, with two children, she had by this time taken over the running of a nursery school founded by her mother, as well as continuing to practise architecture. Finding the time to rest seemed impossible, but the prospect of giving any of this up never entered her head. She took her uncle's advice though and has rested religiously every day, fitting the breaks in along with everything else.

Now 59, Jennifer Jones works in partnership with her daughter, Katherine, 33. Her son Timothy, 31, will join them when he qualifies next year.

For the past year the nursery school, (right next door to Jennifer's cottage and architecture studio, all of which she designed herself), has been the principle source of income as Katherine has had time off to have a baby. But next year, with three full-time partners, the architecture practice should take over.

The nursery has 40 children and is run by a staff of 13. Any problems or important decisions are brought to Jennifer.

for her as well as the nursery. Staff from Care Alternatives, paid for by Haringey Council, help her to bed and the district nurse stops by each day at noon.

But Jennifer hopes she will need less and less help in the future. She has recently discovered Magnetotherapy, a treatment for MS developed in Hungary, in which magnetism is pulsed into the body. She is convinced it has already helped her regain some movement in her hands and toes. "I am knitting again for the first time in 7 years and I can wiggle my toes again too!" She has now bought her own magnetotherapy machine.

At present Jennifer is working on conversion schemes for Hillingdon Council. Past commissions include designs for the renovation of the Marx Memorial Library at Clerkenwell Green and converting an ex Remand/Territorial Army base into the Highgate Newtown Community Centre, including turning the rifle range into a changing room and the tank garage into a nursery school.

The design she is most proud of, however, has never been built: she won third prize in a competition to plan a new building to house the reference collection, library and exhibition hall at Kew Gardens. *The Financial Times* described her entry as "the boldest by far and in the Kew tradition."

Her philosophy about design boils down to two statements, she says. "If it's well designed all



Jennifer Jones works in the sunny studio she designed herself.

Now that she has little use of her hands any more, Jennifer uses a Cambridge Monitor, with 16 colours, and an M24 computer to do her designs. She also has a plotter for A3 drawings. The computer was provided by the MSC (now part of the Department of Employment). She had to find £4,000 to pay for the monitor and plotter herself, but recouped it within a year.

Jennifer manages day to day life with a mixture of private and council-provided care. A housekeeper lives upstairs and cooks

enjoy it. If it's ill designed the ambulant are uncomfortable, and the disabled are barred."

★ Jennifer Jones belongs to the Association of Disabled Professionals, which gives help and advice to newly disabled professional people and has a register of professionals who can give advice to disabled people about careers in particular fields.

For more information write to: Peggy Marchant, General Secretary, The Stables, 73 Pound Rd, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2HU.

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WHAT'S ON

Conferences and leisure

New developments in technology and disability is a seminar at Hawthorn Leisure Centre, Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan, 10 November, 9.45am - 4.30pm. Professionals £10, disabled people and voluntary workers £6. Registration forms from Ray Howorth, tel: (0443) 841225.

A 24-hour sponsored jailbreak, from Strangeways Prison, Manchester, 12 November, has been organised by The Spastics Society. Teams are challenged to 'escape' as far as possible without spending any money on transport. Prizes awarded to the teams who raise most money. Determined, fun-loving people should contact Jan Coulson on 061-736 9850.

Music and the Cycle of Life is the theme of the Annual Conference of the British Society for Music Therapy, 12 November, at the Maria Assumpta Centre, 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Guest speaker Dr Anthony Storr. Tickets £25 (£12 concessions). Application forms from Mrs Denize Christophers, tel: 01-368 8879.

Treacher Collins Syndrome Conference, 12 November, at the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE. Fee £10 (free to Treacher Collins families). Lip speakers, interpreters, loops and notetakers available. For details phone Carlo Laurenzi on 01-229 9272 or Sue Moore on (0603) 33736.

Cerebral Palsy and its management is a 5-day course, 14-18 November for paediatricians, community doctors and GPs, organised by Riverside Health Authority and Cheyne Centre for Spastic Children. Applications from Courses Administrator, Cheyne Centre, 61 Cheyne Walk, London SW3, tel: 01-352 8434.

Therapy in Music for handicapped children. A weekend course, 19-20 November, for teachers, parents and others interested in working with disabled children, at the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre, 3 Leighton Place, London NW5 2QL. For details tel: 01-267 6296.

Whose Voice? Whose Choice? Assessing needs and co-ordinating services - is this a job for care managers, independent case managers or self-advocacy? A seminar on 23 November at 336 Brixton Road, London SW9, will compare these 3 approaches. Contact Gill Edge, Community Care Project, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU, tel: 01-636 4066.

Retirex 88, 1-4 December, is an exhibition at the Barbican, London, to give information and advice to anyone thinking of - or already enjoying - retirement. Over 150 exhibitors will cover money, health and personal relationships.

Confidentiality and informed consent, 14 December is the subject of the first annual conference of the Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE. £27.60 per person. Of interest to people in health, education, social services and the voluntary sector. For booking forms tel: 01-278 9441.

The physically disabled young adult, 3 February, Elvin Hall, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London EC1. Drs Martin Bax and Andrew Thomas of Westminster Children's Hospital will discuss the health and social needs of physically disabled young adults. For details tel: Steve Bates on 01-608 2462.

Courses at Castle Priory

Play for All (In Association with Playtrac) - workshop to develop stimulating play and leisure activities for children and adults with special needs. 28 November-1 December. Tuition £89. Residence £73.50. Non-residence £30.

Communication through Music and Special Needs - a basic workshop for non-musicians. 16-20 January. Tuition £89. Residence £98. Non-residence £38.

Dance Drama Dynamics with Disadvantaged Groups - led by Wolfgang Stange. 20-22 January. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

Citizen Advocacy - for those wishing to develop citizen advocacy projects. 27-29 January. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Please enclose SAE. Tel:(0491) 37551.



Multi-disabled teenagers lose out on education

'81 Action was set up in May 1986 to monitor and report on the consequences of the 1981 Education Act. The members are mainly parents of children with special educational needs and the group has been supported by the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education. A combined conference and 2nd AGM was held last month.

At least one parent felt somewhat depressed at the end of the day, "because the clamour and scramble for integration seemed to be leaving children with severe and multiple handicaps on the scrapheap."

For some severely and multi-disabled young people, special facilities are still required, perhaps especially during the adolescent years. Many are beginning to respond just at the time when their formal education is coming to an end.

Suitable educational provision between 16 and 19 years, and after 19, is of great concern to parents and professionals in the field, as these two letters indicate.

The Acting Principal of Dene College writes:

"There is currently very limited provision for further education for multi-profoundly handicapped young people. As far as I know there are only two residential establishments dealing specifically with this group.

I believe that all students with this degree of disability should be offered further education, and I mean something different from an extended secondary situation.

There are essential differences in the philosophy and approaches of primary/secondary education and further education. In further education the role of lecturers should be to assist the transition from dependent childhood and to encourage students to seek more autonomy and challenge authority.

Under current legislation, however, it is not mandatory for local authorities to make financial provision for students over the age of 19. So if one argues, as I do, that multi-profoundly handicapped students require a 3 year further education course, then it seems obvious that the majority of students in this group should be offered this at 16.

It really is imperative to have a wider and more flexible range of further education available for these young people.

I feel very strongly that organisations like The Spastics Society, which provide very special further education courses, should be encouraged to continue to do

Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

so, not only because the expertise exists but because if they don't, then there is very little chance of its being offered elsewhere.

From my experience it is evident that one of the outcomes of the 3 year course currently offered at Dene College is that even multi-profoundly handicapped students do mature and become more autonomous."

I agree with you and feel we should also press for further education facilities for multi-handicapped young people after the age of 19, if they are showing progress, however slow, in maturation and basic social and self-help skills.

"My husband and I were told that our daughter would most probably die in infancy and I suspect she might well have done in the days when there were scarcely any facilities and opportunities for very handicapped babies and children.

She is now 15 and very much alive, although she will most probably never be able to feed herself or sit up on her own.

This doesn't mean that she is not making progress at school. For this reason, I was aghast at the statement in her recent assessment (which, incidentally, was initiated in October 1986 and completed after much prompting in August 1988): 'Jane has a continuing need for residential care which should, until she reaches the age of 19 years, be linked with the educational provision available.'

When I commented that this was not correct since she would need educational provision for life, I was told that the statement could not be altered because 19 is the age laid down for the local education authority to relinquish

responsibility.

At the same time we were told that there is unlikely to be a place at an Adult Training Centre, because our daughter is lowest on the list of priority as she is living in out-of-county private residential accommodation (although publicly funded). There is also a huge waiting list for ATC places.

She is most difficult to occupy in the school holidays and is most happy when she returns to school. Must her struggles and the special help she now has reach the cut-off point when encouragement stops and boredom, frustration, bad behaviour and more severe physical disability set in?"

I fully appreciate your concern about Jane and hope that a more positive outlet will be available for her by the time she reaches 19.

However, educational provision can and does continue after the age of 19, though local education authorities do not usually have the main responsibility for providing it.

Much of the emphasis in adult centres is focussed on continuing and reinforcing the teaching of self-help and social skills, as well as on broader-based general education at an appropriate level.

There is also a range of adult education available in many areas to which people with disabilities have access either through attending classes at colleges or through courses arranged specially in residential homes and hostels.

Centre for Studies in Integration in Education, 415 Edgware Road, London NW2 6NB, tel: 01-452 8642.

Skill: the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel: 01-274 0565.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help the Aged's health handbook for older people, *Take Care of Yourself*, is now available in braille or on tape.

It is the first handbook for elderly people rather than carers and is based on personal experiences, giving practical advice and information on keeping active and mobile and living alone.

The braille version (£10) is available from the Scottish Health Education Group, Woodburn House, Canaan Lane, Edinburgh EH10 45G (cheques payable to the Scottish Health Education Group). For the tape (£2 for the set of 3) write to Playback, 272 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RP (cheques payable to The Playback Service for the Blind).

Isis Audio Books opened the first library of its unabridged talking books last month, and is offering free life membership to those who join before 31 December.

Rental charges for the tapes vary with the length of the recording. A four-hour tape costs £4.50 for a two-week period, with first class postage included.

Ample stocks of all titles are available and members will be sent details of new titles.

To join write to Isis Audio Books Tape Library, 55 St Thomas' Street, Oxford OX1 1JG.

The Tyne Theatre & Opera House last month launched an information leaflet for disabled people, describing its facilities and access for people with disabilities.

It was produced with the help of Northern Shape and is also available in large print and on cassette. Write to Tyne Theatre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4AG or tel: 091-232 3366 for a copy.

Middlesbrough Council has produced a new Handi-Guide for people with disabilities in the city.

The booklet contains advice and information on social services, health, mobility, transport, employment and education, with separate sections for blind and partially sighted people, deaf and hard of hearing people, the elderly and those with mental or physical disabilities.

It is free from the Information Centre, 52 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, or social services offices.

The London borough of Ealing has just produced a series of housing publicity tapes in English and Punjabi which give general information about housing benefit, your housing rights and what to do about harassment, as well as housing information for Ealing residents. Write to Ealing Talking Newspapers, 39 Broughton Road, London W13, tel: 01-840 2313.

The UK branch of Solidez, which supports rehabilitation programmes for disabled people in Nicaragua, is trying to raise £60,000 to set up a carpentry workshop to enable war disabled people to become self-sufficient making educational materials and crutches, which are badly needed. Contributions to Solidez, Sara Burns, 73 Pentonville Road, London N1.

Name changes: Dr Barnardo's is now called Barnardo's, and the National Bureau for Handicapped Students is known as Skill: the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities.

CLASSIFIED

Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 58325.

DN on tape

Disability Now is now available on tape. If you would like a copy - which at the moment is free - please contact Gayle Mooney, tel: 01-636 5020 ext 244.

DN is also available on 3" disc to people using an Amstrad CPC6128 fitted with 2 switches and on 5" disc for the BBC "B" and BBC "Master" computers.

Contact Steve Barnard or Greg at Princess Marina Centre, tel: (02407) 4231 for your free disc.

Want to develop an Arts, Sports or other leisure project? Any ideas how to involve more people with disabilities in leisure activities?

HACKNEY COUNCIL IS GIVING AWAY SMALL GRANTS TO GROUPS OF PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES IN 1989.

We only have £10,000 to spend, but part of that money could go to help your group if it is based in Hackney. (Sorry - Individuals and Projects with permanent workers do not qualify for grants).

Priority will be given to projects providing long-term benefits to a wide range of people; and to projects involving black and ethnic minorities, women, lesbians and gay men, and young people.

Closing date for applications is December 1, 1988.

For application forms contact: Sandra Davidson at

Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT. 739 7600 X2264

Details also available on tape. If you know anyone who might want one, please contact Sandra. Applications can also be made on tape.



HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working for local people

Could You Help Us?

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5 day week, Monday to Friday, with flexitime. Part-time work is also available.

Starting salary is £6,710 (including London weighting) at 19 or over. Benefits include 22 days holiday a year.

Applications from suitably qualified people with disabilities are particularly welcome. Selection will be strictly on the basis of merit. The Department of Employment is an equal opportunity employer.

For application forms, telephone or write to

Mary Dalling, Personnel Officer,
Room 331, Department of Employment,
Headquarters Building,
Caxton House, Tothill Street,
London. 01-273 5451.

Greater London Arts

is the regional arts association for the whole of London

Funding projects is one of a variety of ways in which GLA supports and develops the arts for all Londoners.

If you want GLA to fund a project - now's the time to apply

GLA's Policy and Funding Guidelines and application forms are now available for projects commencing April 1989 onwards.

Deadline for applications: early January

For a copy of the guidelines and an application form, please write, enclosing stamps to the value of 51p, to:

Project Funding (Ref: Proj 8)
Greater London Arts
9 White Lion Street
London N1 9PD



Policy and Funding Guidelines are available on tape on request.

We need 2 dynamic people to help us through the next exciting stage of *DN's* development.

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You must have heaps of ideas and enthusiasm, preferably a degree, and professional writing experience. Knowledge of subbing and lay-out helpful; word processing too. Non-smoker preferred.

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You must be well-organised, able to take responsibility for the smooth running of a busy editorial office and for some listings in the newspaper. Good shorthand, typing, enthusiasm and a friendly manner essential; knowledge of word processing an advantage. Non-smoker preferred.

Both jobs are entitled to interest-free car loan (after 6 months) and season-ticket loan.

To apply please telephone Mary Wilkinson, Editor, on 01-636 5020 by 4 November. Applications from people with disabilities welcomed.

Leisure and Recreation

Sports Worker

ACTION SPORTS TEAM

Sc.3. £8,622-£9,174 pa inc. reduced pro rata to 18 hours per week.

This post is part of a twelve person outreach Sports Team. Action Sport organises a programme of activities throughout the borough mainly targeting Senior Citizens, Women, Unemployed and people with disabilities.

We are seeking somebody with the appropriate skills, and abilities to establish and coach a range of sports sessions for people with disabilities.

There are excellent opportunities for training and you will be encouraged to be active in the Recreational divisions new initiatives.

For further details and/or an application form please contact Personnel Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, W6 9JU. Tel: 01-741 0904 (24 hour answering service). Please quote reference RPRDA025. Closing date: 18th November, 1988.

We welcome applications whatever your gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, age (up to 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men. **JOB SHARERS WELCOME.**

We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are currently under-represented in this organisation.

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Kirklees Council wishes to appoint a disabled person as Access Officer, to be based mainly in the Equal Opportunities Unit.

The postholder will work closely with Community Groups, other Council Officers and Developers to promote the creation of accessible environments and to increase usage of Council Services by improving access.

By "improving access" Kirklees means increasing the involvement of disabled people, older people, children, women and any other relevant groups by making physical changes to the environment, producing information in a variety of formats and making systems easier to understand and participate in.

The person appointed will be expected to give advice on improving access to Council buildings and private developments, establish and administer a community access budget, develop an information bank on access and assist in the development of policies on access both in the areas of service provision and employment. He/she will also co-ordinate training on access issues for Officers involved in the planning and development process.

The successful candidate will have had experience of working with Community Organisations and also of working within a large public organisation.

The possession of a professional Building or Planning Qualification and practical knowledge of Planning and Building Control procedures is desirable.

The postholder must have understanding of, active support for and positive behaviour towards all Equal Opportunity issues.

Only disabled people need apply as the post is being advertised under the provisions of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act.

Further information and an application form, in braille, large print or on tape, can be obtained from: **COMMON SERVICES SECTION, KIRKLEES HOUSE, MARKET STREET, HUDDERSFIELD HD1 2TG** (TEL: 0484 22133 ext 2279) TO WHOM FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY 25TH NOVEMBER 1988

The Council operates a Trade Union Membership Agreement.

KIRKLEES OPERATES AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY FULL DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE SUPPLIED TO ALL APPLICANTS.



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Rainer

1 YEAR BENEFIT ADVICE SERVICE: 2 POSTS

The Rainer Foundation is a national charity working with the young single homeless, young women and young offenders. The small head office team provides advice and support to 16 individual projects where the emphasis is on providing integrated services, ensuring that black communities and young women have access to all services.

At a time of major benefit changes for young people, we are to establish a specialist Benefit and Training Advice Service for one year, to meet the needs of the young people in our projects (and project staff). This unit will be a team of two workers.

BENEFIT INFORMATION WORKER

(Salary £13,200 p.a. inc. ILW - under review)

We are looking for someone with current knowledge and substantial experience of Benefit Advice work, to design and produce information on Benefit Entitlement for the specific groups of young people Rainer works with, including young people with disabilities. A good knowledge of Welfare Rights agencies would be an advantage. The ability to work independently and using your own initiative is essential.

As Rainer's workforce contain less than 3% disabled people required by law (Disabled Persons Employment Act 1944 & 1958) and because Rainer is committed to developing opportunities for young people with disabilities, only applicants with disabilities need apply for this post.

For access details, contact Tamara Flanagan at the address below.

BENEFIT TRAINING WORKER

(Salary £13,200 p.a. inc. ILW - under review)

The Benefit Training Worker will need substantial experience of Benefit Advice and Training. They will be required to develop in conjunction with the Information Worker a training Programme for staff working in and around Rainer Projects with specialist groups. Additionally, the postholder will need the ability to use their own initiative and work independently.

A commitment to EOPs is essential for both posts.

Application forms and information can be obtained from:

Rainer Foundation, 227/239 Tooley Street, London SE1 2JX. Tel: 01-403 4434.

Closing date for applications: 4th November 1988.

The Rainer Foundation is committed to a policy of equal opportunity of employment and is developing its practices to ensure its effectiveness. This policy aims to ensure that no employee or job applicant receives less favourable treatment because of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, sex, marital status, family responsibility, disability, sexuality, class, age, religion, or by reason of being an ex-offender.

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In the current housing crisis a major function for the HNA is prioritising who benefits from a declining supply of Council lettings.

You will be a member of the Service Management Team on which other Advisers/Equality brief holders are represented along with Service Managers. The Housing Needs Adviser works closely with the Race Equality Officer, Irish Liaison Officer (Housing), Housing Adviser (Women's Issues) and the Housing Adviser (Elderly People and People with Disabilities).

The job also includes responsibility for the housing policy brief for gay men, in liaison with and reporting back to a self organised group of lesbian and gay housing workers.

For this stimulating job you must have:

- the ability to manage your work and that of people working for you, delegating wherever possible;
- an awareness of the impact of the current housing crisis on inner-city communities;
- knowledge of the housing needs of gay men, people with medical ill health (including people with AIDS) and people with a history of mental ill health;
- an understanding of the current and future roles of housing associations and the voluntary sector in meeting housing needs;
- awareness and commitment to equal opportunities objectives relating to black and minority ethnic communities, women, people with disabilities and lesbians and gay men;
- report writing and public presentation skills.

It would also be helpful if you had experience of policy analysis and development, working in or with large organisations, working with figures and computers, and dealing with elected Members. Previous experience of working with housing allocations and mobility schemes would be an added bonus.

Office accommodation is wheelchair accessible with lift access to an accessible toilet on another floor. Job share applications are invited with or without a partner. Applications will be accepted on tape as well as in writing. You will qualify as an essential car user.

For an application form and further information please apply to: Recruitment & Personnel Officer, Comprehensive Housing Service, 13/27 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22. Tel: 01-889 5815 (24 hour answering service). Closing date 15th November 1988.

Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer. Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post with equal opportunities for all, including women, black people, people from ethnic communities, lesbians and gays and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, religion, class and unrelated criminal conviction.

HARINGEY COUNCIL *Jobs*

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

The London Borough of Southwark is committed to combating racism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination faced by ethnic minority groups, women, people with disabilities and gay men and lesbians. Our newly established Equal Opportunities Unit is at the forefront of Southwark's drive to ensure that equality of opportunity in employment becomes a reality in practice and not simply a paper commitment.

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(EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES)

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You will deal with the development, implementation and control of effective policies and procedures.

Together with a specialist knowledge of all relevant areas relating to disablement employment and the relevant code of practice, you will be familiar with the principles of positive action and targeting. Additionally you should have two years' experience of working with people with disabilities on a professional or voluntary basis.

THE POST IS OPEN TO JOB SHARING

We are an equal opportunity employer. Applications are welcome from candidates regardless of race, nationality, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, religious beliefs or domestic circumstances.

Telephone 01-701 2870 or 01-708 1954 (24 hour answering service) for an application form, or write on a postcard to: The Personnel Officer, London Borough of Southwark, 25 Commercial Way, London, SE15 6DG.

Please quote reference and job title.

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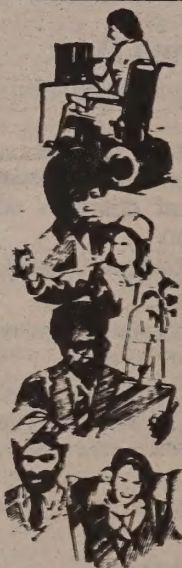
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For further details please send an s.a.e. to:
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Interested? ... then make sure you see our weekly Jobs Bulletin which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres and Neighbourhood Offices in Birmingham. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail. If you live outside the City, you can obtain this week's Jobs Bulletin by 'phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours.



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Hackney Council employs a vast range of people with a variety of skills. And we need additional staff in all areas of the organisation so that we can continue to improve the services we provide for local people. We have regular vacancies for staff in each department, from Social Services to Finance, and work opportunities range from managerial and technical staff to administrators clerical workers and qualified professionals. If you are interested in finding out more about a career with one of the most innovative Local Councils in the capital, complete the coupon and we will send you a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin which contains details of all jobs available and how to apply.

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Drop into our job shop at the Town Hall and look around or return the coupon, to: The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA or telephone 01-986 3123 ext 211 or 215.

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HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working for local people

CLASSIFIED

For £2 a line, you can reach over 80,000 people (Minimum charge £8. Find-a-Friend is free and all classified ads are free for members of The Spastics Society and affiliated groups.) Phone 01-636 5020 ext 245, or 01-252 1362 for boxed ads.

HOLIDAYS

Will access be easy? Are the rooms big enough? Is there a lift? For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try **ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL**, a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms - centrally heated throughout - licensed bars - free use of wheelchairs and other aids - mini-bus - half or full board. Telephone: **050 841 324** ... or write: The Manager, Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel, Ashwellthorpe, Norwich NR16 1EX.

THORNBURY HALL HOTEL, Churnet Valley. Specialised facilities for all disabilities. Companion service available (no extra cost) to allow all the family to enjoy themselves. Conference facilities and study/craft courses available on request. Colour TV in all bedrooms, single rooms available. Games room. Hotel stands in 5 acres of ground amidst beautiful countryside. Prices from £21.50 a day full board. For a brochure contact Thornbury Hall Hotel, Lockwood Road, Kingsley Holt, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST10 2DH, tel: (0538) 757220.

LOS CRISTIANOS, TENERIFE. Wheelchair accessible apartments in wheelchair-friendly health and fitness centre. Heated pool with hoist, physio, sauna. Rent or buy. Tel: (0753) 685718.

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR/SCOOTERS

BATTERY CARS. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

USED CARS from £3,000. For a selection of new and used Chairman cars contact **GOWRINGS MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL**. "Travel in your wheelchair in your car." Dial 100 and ask for Freephone Gowrings.

GROUND FLOOR FLAT, Worcester. 2-bed, c.h., partial d.g., suitable ambulant disabled, garage with charging point for electric vehicle. Guide-price £57,000. Tel: (0905) 29506.

IF YOU HAVE: difficulty bending down to pick up post and newspapers, a draughty letterbox, worries about letter box access by vandals and thieves - then you need **MAIL MATE**. A brand new British invention. For full details send SAE to Double A Records, 224 Mansfield Road, Worksop, Notts S80 3DP, or tel: (0909) 473067.

WAYFARER OUTDOOR WHEELCHAIR. 17" seat, with charger. Hardly used, cost £2,650 + extras. Bargain £1,500. Phone evenings (04024) 43169 (Essex).

ORTHO-KINETIC TRAVEL CHAIR + head/lumbar support pads. H-strap. Bag and tray. Clean condition. Needs very slight attention. £350 ono. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 843136.

OUTDOOR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR. Vessa Vitesse Mark 3, with kerb climbers and battery charger. £900 ono. Tel: 01-254 3796 after 6pm, ask for Chantal.

CAR CHAIR for passenger seat. £300 ono. Please contact Mr Smith on (0373) 813029 weekdays after 6.30pm.

ALVEMA MAX 308. Good condition. £200. Also Ortho-Kinetic **TRAVEL CHAIR** with many spares. £100. Tel: (0582) 841221.

NEW SINGLE REAR WHEEL 3-wheeler. Soft start. Automatic safety brake. Battery condition indicator. Waterproof seat. Puncture protected tyres. Front basket. Tel: Ropley (096277) 3478.

BEC HORIZON WHEELCHAIR, bought 1986, never used. Can climb 7" kerbs and travels 18 miles on single charge at 5mph. £900 ono. Tel: Mr Whitaker 01-263 6609.

MINI PARAVAN, 30,000 miles, recent sub-frame, tyres, brakes, exhaust, shock absorber and sills. Drop-down ramp. New MOT. Excellent runner. £1,000 ono. Tel: Ms Rana 01-241 3287 or Dave Philips on (0252) 330584.

BATRICAR, good condition, new charger, new batteries, plus extras. £600. Tel: Basingstoke (0256) 770474.

VESSA ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, good condition, new batteries. £300 ono. Tel: Beyton (0359) 70165.

FIAT FIORINO 1985, converted to carry wheelchair passenger in rear, plus 3 folding seats. Very good condition. £3,295 ono. Tel: Northampton (0604) 845737.

RHC VESSA VITESSE powered wheelchair. Excellent condition, rarely used, new battery. Tel: 01-723 7616 for viewing/try-out. Any reasonable offer.

BEC SCOOTER, immaculate, approx 3 years old, little used, new drive wheel, two new heavy duty batteries, recently serviced double back wheels, ideal indoors and out. £500 ono. Tel: 01-840 1435.

ELAP rotating and sliding Passenger Seat for Princess car, ideal for disabled person, £195 ono; Mobylic Carrying Chair with four wheels, folds flat, ideal for caravan use, as new, £50 ono. Tel: Kenilworth (0926) 53941.

WANTED

WOMAN WITH DISABILITY, mid-20s, non-smoker, seeks accessible flat share in North/Central London. Tel: Tracy on 01-482 2325 (day).

WANTED: INFORMATION regarding holiday accommodation, g.f. or with lift, anywhere level within 1½ miles of rail station, having shed or garage for storing and charging an electric cyclechair. Tel: (0905) 29506.

WANTED: SOMEONE TO KEEP SMALL GARDEN neat and tidy. Owner is house-bound with cp. Garden only needs a few hours work a week. Will pay £3.50 per hour. Box No 21.

MEMBER OF DOUGLAS BADER SPORTS CLUB wants a .177 air rifle with underlever and sidelever. Box No 22.

FIND A FRIEND

DATES FOR THE DISABLED. A better life. (5.15pm - 7.15pm) Tel: 01-958 1095.

FRENCHMAN, 38, with cp, seeks English, female penfriend, to exchange letters and visits. Interests: children, animals, jokes, Beatles, Rolling Stones, most

sports, eating out and having fun. Speaks no English. Write to M Cudraz Gilbert, 37 Ave du Grand Chatelet, Grenoble 38100, Isere, France.

YOUNG MAN, 24, able to walk with stick. Sometimes uses wheelchair. Hobbies, travel and popular music. Seeks female companionship with view to marriage if suited. Hampshire area preferred. Box No 15.

QUIET (WORKING CLASS) 61-YEAR-OLD widow, caring for my cerebral palsied (quiet) 20-year-old son, living in Bishop Auckland. Co Durham area, with little social life. Would like someone special or just a friend to write to. Will answer all who care to write. Box No 17.

DISABLED MAN, 33, seeks girl 21-32. My interests are concerts, eating out and cinema. I drive a car and am prepared to travel. I am waiting to hear from YOU! Box No 18.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER ME? I was at Craig-y-Parc school from 1971-1976 and would love to hear from you. Paul Coward. Box No 19.

LADY, 55, divorced, disabled, has a stick, is looking for a man aged around 50 who is divorced or a widower to write to or meet. Box No 20.

To reply to a Find-a-Friend advert, indicate the Box Number clearly, mark the envelope Private & Confidential and send it to Disability Now, address on back page.



LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN DISABILITY RESOURCE UNIT SERVICES OFFICER

P03 £16,123-£17,421 pa inc. (Pay award pending)
To be responsible for initiating, developing and monitoring the implementation of policies on disabilities.
★ Please note, due to administrative reasons the wrong closing date was published in the October issue of Disability Now. This position is still open and applications, particularly from disabled people are welcome.
For further details, please refer to October issue, or phone **01-387 4010**, or write to: Barbara Lisicki, Disability Resource Unit, Room 410E, Town Hall, Euston Road, London NW1 2EU.

APPEALS OFFICER(S)

£10,191 - £11,700 - cost of living increase pending.

Appeals Officer(s), one of whom is to be based at Milton Keynes, are needed to join a successful team in the Spastics Society's East Region raising money to finance its work for people with cerebral palsy and their families.

Appeals Officers are responsible for the management of their area, including recruiting and motivating a team of part-time staff and volunteers. A sound administrative background is essential.

Age is immaterial, but candidates must be energetic, able to work under pressure and cope with unsocial and flexible hours. Considerable travel is involved and a current driving licence is essential. An interest free car loan scheme is available.

Write or telephone for an application form to Mrs. M. E. Bateman, Appeals Co-ordinator (East), The Spastics Society, Gosford House, Gosford Road, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9QH. Telephone (0502) 714663. Closing date 7th November, 1988.
An Equal Opportunities Employer.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY



We are an independent co-ordinating agency working in the disability field across London. We are committed to working towards the full integration of disabled people into the community and we develop our work in consultation with disabled people and their representatives in London.

HEAD OF INFORMATION & PROMOTIONS

We are looking for someone to be responsible for GLAD's Information Service, publications programme, contact with members of both Houses of Parliament and promotion of GLAD's views and work through the media. S/he will manage a team of five staff and take part in GLAD's management. S/he must have a keen interest in and good awareness of the interests and needs of disabled people, promotional flair and a creative approach to his/her work. Some experience of managing staff, planning workloads, promotional and information work is essential. Salary: NJC Scale P01 £14,403-£15,312 pa (including London Weighting).

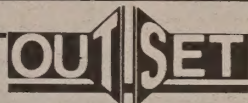
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are looking for someone to provide administrative and secretarial support to the Head of Fieldwork and Development, to deal with queries from and disseminate information to member organisations, and to organise events. S/he must be committed to making GLAD's work fully available to disabled people. Experience of typing, proven administrative skills, and a high level of initiative is essential. Preference will be given to applicants with disabilities who meet all the essential requirements. Salary: NJC Scale 4 £9,333-£10,254 pa (including London Weighting). One year contract, subject to review depending on availability of funding.

Closing date for applications for both these posts: November 9. Further details and application form (available on tape and floppy diskette) from: GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Tel 01.274 0107.

We are working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer. We particularly welcome applications from disabled people. Our offices are fully accessible and we will make every effort to provide for individual needs.

GLAD receives funding from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.



Action on Disability
RESEARCH

OUTSET needs a **RESEARCH MANAGER** to direct and oversee its innovative programme of social research into a range of disability issues. Primary requirements are:

- a proven track record in developing and managing research projects, including preparation of funding proposals.
- ability to identify new research openings, and negotiate new sources of funding for research.
- experience of managing and motivating a team of skilled research staff.

OUTSET is an expanding national voluntary organisation committed to creating new opportunities to improve the lives of disabled people. OUTSET's Disability Research Unit undertakes commissioned research into social issues of concern to disabled people, their carers, and service providers. The Research Manager leads the Unit, and has a crucial role in attracting research funds into the organisation.

Salary is on Local Authority Scale PO1, Points 32-36 (£12,951-£14,301) inc OLW (pay award pending).

For more information contact **Elizabeth James, Assistant Director**. For an application form contact Linder Fowler at:

OUTSET LTD, Drake House, 18 Creekside, London SE8 3DZ. Tel: 01-692 7141

OUTSET is an equal opportunities employer, and actively encourages applications from disabled people.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Have you the commitment to help create better access facilities for people with disabilities?

We believe that people with disabilities deserve much greater consideration so we are looking for two key people to work closely together to develop better access facilities in Waltham Forest.

One post, an Access Development Worker, shortly to be advertised, will identify and promote the needs of people with disabilities, whilst this post is concerned with the design and implementation of access facilities.

ACCESS DESIGN OFFICER

£14,241-£15,417 P.A. INCLUSIVE

You will be required to advise on all aspects of building design as it affects people with disabilities and prepare and implement an appropriate programme of Schemes of adaptations to Council buildings.

Substantial experience in building design and contract supervision across a wide range of building types is essential. You will also need a positive and creative approach to access development and design. Ability to work on your own initiative to prepare written reports and communicate effectively with a variety of organisations and individuals is essential.

Generous holiday entitlement, casual car allowance and car loan facilities available. Relocation package up to £9,000 in approved cases.

Job sharers welcome.

CLOSING DATE: 18.11.88

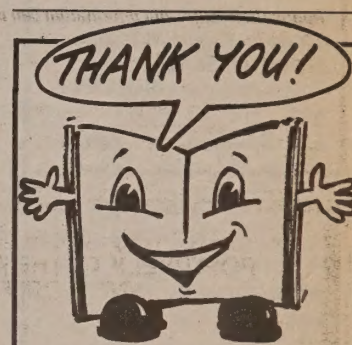
REF: N2116/N

Application form and further details from, Municipal Offices, The Ridgeway, Chingford, London E4 6PS. Tel. 01-531 8899 - 24 hours answering service.

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. All applicants for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbian and gay men and people with disabilities.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF

Waltham Forest



In September 7 readers generously donated a total of £129 to Disability Now.

Thank you to:

Mrs W Camplin, Enfield, Middx
Coalville & District Spastics Society, Leics
C A Evans, Oxhey, Watford
Mr E Fannon, Dykehead, Shotts, Lanarkshire
Mr B E Fransham, Blackbrook, Derby
Mrs Ann Pugh, City Hall, Bradford
and one anonymous supporter

To join them, please send your cheque or postal order (made out to The Spastics Society) to Gayle Mooney, Room 2B, Disability Now, Freepost, 12 Park Crescent, London W1E 3FB.

Cold cash

Extra cash will continue to be paid to certain people on income support during very cold spells this winter, the Government announced last month.

Disabled people, pensioners and families with a child under two will be able to claim £5 a week from the social fund for any period of cold weather. They will not have to pay it back.

If you successfully claim for one cold snap you will automatically receive payments for later spells during the winter.

DisabilityNow

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Midwife Julie O'Grady monitors a baby in the special care unit, St Thomas' Hospital, London.

Premature babies run risk of disability

More premature babies may be at risk of surviving with disabilities because of a severe shortage of intensive care cots, warns a new report by the Royal College of Physicians.

A 2-year investigation has shown that there is a shortfall of at least 500 intensive care cots in England and Wales and inadequate staffing and equipment threatens the quality of care. Some units are at crisis point.

"Without the necessary resources, many babies who could have been rescued will die and, as was the case 25 years ago, a high proportion of the survivors will have avoidable handicaps," says the report.

Paradoxically, it is the medical advances in caring for premature

and low birth-weight babies which have created the need for more facilities. Many babies who would have been classed as still-born in the past are now resuscitated but need intensive care if they are to develop normally.

The present lack of resources means that doctors ring hospital after hospital searching for a spare cot in an intensive unit.

"Parents are usually unaware when there has been considerable delay in transferring their baby for intensive care and in this respect there is a 'silent waiting list,'" the report says.

At present there are about 400 intensive care cots in England and Wales. The report recommends that there should be around 1,000 with each region

having 1-2 regional perinatal centres, a further 70-80 consultants nationwide specialising in intensive care of the newborn and more specially trained neonatal nurses.

Care of premature babies is not an area where it is possible to cut corners, said Dr Chiswick, a consultant paediatrician and honorary secretary of the working party. "You have to do it properly or not at all."

Health Minister Kenneth Clarke says the report gives "a false and damaging impression of the very real achievements" made in neonatal care.

Medical Care of the Newborn in England and Wales: Royal College of Physicians, £7.

Integrated schooling not working

The number of children attending special schools has actually been rising since 1983 claims a new research study using Department of Education figures.

Will Swann, lecturer in education at the Open University, says that a drop in the proportion of children aged 5-15 attending special schools between 1982-86, from 153 per 10,000 to 145 per 10,000, was misleading.

Writing in *The Oxford Review of Education*, he said the reduction was due to new statementing and assessment procedures and occurred between 1982-83, since when segregation has increased.

"It has been hard to discern anything that might be fairly described as a national integration programme since 1981," said Mr Swann. "No clearly articulated steps have been taken by the DES to reduce the proportion of pupils going to special schools."

"The DES has not even issued guidance to local education authorities on how they should interpret the integration clauses of the 1981 Act."

"The absence of central government policy in this area stands in marked contrast to almost all other aspects of recent government policy on education," he said.

Mark Vaughan, of the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education, believes that there is still a great deal of resistance to integration. "It's depressing that 75-80 per cent of children with special needs are still in segregated schooling. This must change," he said.

WE'RE PAYING THE PRICE OF SUCCESS!

IN the last 2 years, 7,000 new readers have joined *DN's* free mailing list, making us the leading newspaper for people with disabilities. Our circulation is now 28,000. Advertising revenue and donations are up too.

But... our costs have also shot up. This year *DN* will cost The Spastics Society nearly £150,000. Advertising and donations meet only a third of that.

To keep *DN* going – and growing – we need your help. In December we are introducing an annual subscription.

- £6 for individuals* • £10 for organisations and overseas readers

We shall be writing to each of you soon enclosing a subscription form.

The good news is you will be getting a new-look newspaper. Our readership survey last year showed this is what you want. So, look out for a distinctive, dynamic *DN*!

*Readers on low incomes will continue to get *DN* free if they let us know.

DisabilityNow

Stay with us - we're on the move!

